Daily Report

Latin America

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Panama, Chile 'Apparently' Not To Attend Summit

PA1209202089 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Aug 89 p 20-A

[Text] It was learned on 29 August at the Presidential Palace that Panama will probably not be able to participate in the hemispheric presidents' meeting to be held in Costa Rica.

It was mentioned because: the constitutional term in Panama concludes on 1 September, the political future is somewhat uncertain, and neither the incumbent, Manuel Solis Palma, nor the Armed Forces general and strongman of Panama will be able to participate as their status is illegal under the OAS.

It was learned that several Latin American presidents, such as Uruguay's Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Bolivia's Jaime Paz Zamora, have announced their participation, but no word has been received yet from the Chilean Government on General Augusto Pinochet's participation.

Apparently Chile and Panama will not attend this meeting convoked by Costa Rican President Dr Oscar Arias for late October, which will also coincide with the 100th anniversary of Costa Rican democracy.

Other presidents have also confirmed their participation, including Ecuadoran Rodrigo Borja, Brazilian Jose Sarney, and Venezuelan Carlos Andres Perez, as well as Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney—who was invited as an observer along with Mario Soares of Portugal and Felipe Gonzalez of Spain. However, if the elections in Spain are held ahead of schedule, Gonzalez will probably not be able to attend.

U.S. President George Bush was the first to officially confirm his participation, and the government is already working on preparations for his arrival.

This meeting will be the first of this nature in 22 years, and plans to cover a "D" agenda that includes: Development, democracy, debt, drugs, deforestation, and disarmament.

Andean Pact Presidential Meeting Announced

PY1309130089 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Sep 89 p 1

[From the Fides News Agency]

[Excerpt] The five presidents of the Andean Pact will meet in Bolivia before the end of 1989 to check on the implementation of the program agreed upon in May 1989 in Cartagena, Colombia, on the 20th anniversary of the Andean Pact.

This announcement was made by Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde. No date has been set for the meeting of Andean presidents, who decided in May to give their full political support to the integration process and to personally supervise the operational mechanisms of the Andean Pact. [passage omitted]

Pact Sponsors Coca Substitution

PY1409150489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The agriculture ministers of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela have pledged to devise and implement a plan designed to eradicate coca crops, and to develop alternative economic options for the producers and inhabitants of the areas of production, as well as adjacent regions.

To this effect, the ministers have asked the board of the Cartagena Accord to take 60 days to draw up the appropriate terms of reference for devising a plan that can be presented to the appropriate organizations of each nation in which it will be implemented.

South Pacific Commission To Move Headquarters

PY1309215689 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Sep 89 p 11

[Summary] At a meeting in Bogota, the countries that make up the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPS)—Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Chile—have decided to move the CPPS headquarters to Santiago. They also reelected Chilean representative Hugo Llanos as executive secretary for another 4-year term. The four member-countries also adopted resolutions regarding the 200-mile issue, cooperation among the South Pacific Basin countries, and marine environment protection.

Cuba

Castro Gives Speech on Nation's Medical Progress

PA1509130489 Havana International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro inaugurating intensive and intermediate care units at Havana's Salvador Allende Hospital on 11 September—recorded]

[Text] [Applause] [Castro clears his throat] Comrades: I believe this is the fourth ceremony I have participated in at this hospital during the past 4 years, right? It hasn't quite been 4 years yet. I think it was in December 1985 that I visited this hospital for a meeting with all the leaders of Havana's hospitals to analyze subjective and objective problems. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze subjective problems, but we also found many objective problems. We found that some things were forgotten or delayed in hospital construction or in the development of the capital's hospitals. It was the opposite of what was occurring in the center of the country.

We were meeting in the Palace of the Revolution, and the director of this hospital, Comrade Caballero [not further identified], who is no longer here.... [interrupted by unidentified speaker who says: "He was a secretary of the party."] Yes sir, he was secretary of the party. We them made him director. As secretary of the party, Caballero explained the problems of the Salvador Allende Hospital, how, aside from all this and because of the workers efforts, the hospital was one of the nation's vanguard hospitals. But there were many problems.

The basements were being used by warehouses and other institutions. The Salvador Allende Medical School was under construction. The fence was broken. This was the [words indistinct]. [laughter] It's true. It was a dramatic scene. There was a mango tree in what is now called Salvador Allende Park. People would come and go. It was disorganized, involuntary disorganization.

The hospital suffered very much with all these problems. The cafeteria belonged to the peoples' government. Miraculously, I met Caballero himself and I believe that the secretary of the committee [as heard] of the party did not lose a truck. There were so many warehouse proprietors here that no one really knew where the items came from. He stood in front of a truck. He did not want it to enter because of all the noise. He painted such a disastrous situation that I said: I will visit it. I want to see it. I want to see that phenomenon you're telling me about.

Many lessons can be learned from this. A certain amount of indolence was created, a certain amount of indifference. People became accustomed to things that were truly done poorly.

This wasn't the only case. The hospital was losing space. Pavilions were no longer used because they were not repaired, and none of the hospitals in the capital had maintenance materials. This was linked to problems with the famous management system. There were phantom enterprises that were supposed to repair the hospitals. They sold the materials and billed them as if they had been used in construction. The illegal street vendors bought what they wanted. They would come with trucks from Santa Clara or Pinar del Rio to buy sand, rocks, cement, reinforcement rods, everything that was freely sold, and the hospitals had no material for maintenance.

Those meetings helped us very much because the directors, the secretaries of the party, the Union of Young Communists, the trade union, and the nurses gave us a panorama of the hospital situation in the capital. Five sectors were involved.

We met for 2 full days analyzing all these problems. We had a quiet program. It was done quietly. This was the hospital that had the most problems, though. It had objective problems.

I already stated that the meeting was for subjective problems. The other day, I had a meeting in the afternoon and I visited this hospital during the day. I remember that now. It was impossible not to remember this, especially when one retells the story or when Tanya [not further identified] tells of all the work that has been done on the hospital. To this we can add all the work that has been done in less than 4 years throughout the entire capital. We have increased the number since then. Proof of this is that we have added more than 5,000 beds to the approximately 50,000 beds that already existed, but this does not say it all. I think it would be expressed better if we spoke of the quality of the work done in these more than 3 years. It continues, right? There have been some results.

For example since then, part of the program included the expansion of the Miguel Henriquez Hospital. That is the one that had the most objective problems. At least it had as many objective problems as this hospital had, in addition to the subjective problems that the Salvador Allende Hospital did not have. In more than these 3 years, we have constructed the Albarran Hospital, Marianao Pediatric Hospital, the Julito Diaz Hospital expansion, the Julio Trigo Clinical-Surgical Hospital, the large maternity area in the Lebredo Hospital, medical schools, and the almost 2,000 family doctor homes/offices and general family doctor consultative offices, and I have not even mentioned all the other work that has been done. Hundreds of renovations have been done on the hospitals.

Materials were assigned to the hospitals and they themselves began to do a lot of things that they previously could not do because they did not have the materials that the illegal street vendors came to buy freely here in the capital. Illegal street vendors, you know them as R&o Frio bandits, would sell things and become millionaires by speculating on the needs of the people. They bought material. Our hospitals, however, didn't even have sand, rock, cement, cement blocks, or lumber; nothing to work with. They have had it ever since, however. The results

of that effort are encouraging. This hospital had its own plans. As I said, it was working very hard.

It looked like the medical school would never be finished. I said: We have to finish this school. We have to recover all these installations. All of them were recovered. We have to provide resources for maintenance. We have to recover the areas that have been lost. We must repair the fence and we must do a number of other things.

Among other things, we had to remove the mango tree. No one here wants to cut down a tree. However, I think that the most inadequate tree for a hospital is a mango tree. It was planted at some time and the fact that it produced mangoes was evident by the number of boys that came here to take the mangoes. I think that even the patients would occasionally go down and get a mango. [laughter]

A park was built there, which is what a hospital needs. It won't have a problem with sanitation, flies, boys, and everything else. There are many places to plant mango trees. The problem of the mango tree was resolved. The hospital was supported. It began to recover its installations. It began to use all the basements that had been turned into warehouses. Everyone cooperated. I think that there were about 14 or 15 institutions involved and only 1 remained: the hospital.

While the comrades of this hospital fought against objective problems, they were being strengthened internally. They developed their will to fight. As I said, amid all these problems, they were able to become national vanguards. We have visited this center over the past 3 and one-half years, almost 4 years, and not only when a ceremony such as this took place. Many other times I came to speak with the leaders of the hospital about their problems. We took Caballero from here and sent him to the Miguel Henriquez Hospital, which is a phenomenal medical institution.

At this time, we also developed the plan to expand hospitals, including the Miguel Henriquez. Today we have the satisfaction of saying that in the most populated areas of the capital, in Cerro, Diez de Octubre, Lawton, that zone, we have two of the best hospitals in the capital. This is in addition to the Albarran Hospital, the pediatric hospital that we will soon inaugurate, the Finlay Hospital expansion and the Diaz Soto Hospital expansion. These have become excellent hospitals.

I didn't mention the Calixto Garcia Hospital but we have an expansion and modernization program there, too, just as we have a similar plan for other hospitals. I am only mentioning the majority of the work that began after that meeting and was completed in just a few years. Today we can say that the two regions, the most-populated areas in the capital, have two of the best hospitals in the country.

I haven't mentioned Centro Habana, which the contingent chief mentioned. It is a large pediatric hospital. I haven't mentioned the one in the Calzada. What's it called? [unidentified people simultaneously answer: "Cerro Pediatric."] It's called the Cerro Pediatric Hospital. It was expanded. A school was built. It's an excellent institution.

I'm only referring to these two hospitals: the Salvador Allende and Miguel Henriquez hospitals. They render services, not just to this extensively-populated area, but also to Havana Province.

The hospital began to recover beds. The medical school was finished. The streets and the green areas were repaired. The park was built. A number of new services were created. All the installations were improved. Finally, this gem was built—the building housing the intensive and intermediate care units and other operating rooms.

I visited the building many times when it was being constructed to speak with Marco [not further identified] and with the construction workers. I was impressed to see the doctors working on the project. I saw the nurses, everyone working. If that doctor was an orthopedic doctor or a surgeon, I would ask, what are you making that man do? Won't we ruin that man?

The party organized the participation of the technical personnel and the workers. The doctors asked for 2 weeks. They worked for 2 weeks, a full 2 weeks, but they did not come here to work 4 or 5 hours. They worked 10 or more hours.

I said: What are you doing with that surgeon? Be careful he doesn't get hurt here. They told me: No, the surgeons are the assistants. I asked what they assisted in. They said the surgeons assisted in bricklaying, carpentry. What a wonderful thing, I said, that our construction workers can see a specialist in the modest role of a carpentry assistant, a bricklaying assistant. Neither their hands nor their skills were put at risk. What a political lesson, what a moral lesson this was.

I have always stated that doctors should be put into minibrigades, and that they should be there for 1 or 2 years. It seemed like a very good idea to have the specialists work there for 2 weeks. It was a lesson in modesty for the specialist, a change, an incursion into the work and spirit of the laborer.

Even though the specialist may work with his hands, it is a different kind of work that has a more intellectual connotation. How educational this is for the specialist, the specialist [repeats himself] and how educational it is for the worker in socialism. This is the socialism that Tanya called the true socialism. The workers saw the specialist in the role of a humble assistant. They saw that this action not only had a social value or a scientific-economic value, but it also had an extraordinary political and moral value. It was a place worth seeing.

Professors and students later came. Everyone added a grain of sand to that large project, the most important project, although it is not the only one.

Look at these windows. Look at these and look at those. You'll see that they are the same large windows. It is the same architectural style, the same style of building as the old hospital or that of an area of the old hospital. Perhaps this is a little more modern than the pavilions that are farther away. This one blends into the area. It is also an old area. The architecture blends in.

An excellent installation now exists here. I'm not sure that there is any other hospital in the country with an intermediate intensive care unit like the one this hospital now has. We just toured the area and we are witnesses to the value, the quality—which we could call extraordinary—of this building. This will help a lot. The purpose of this intermediate intensive care unit is to save lives, lives that could not be saved without the specialized attention of the men and women that work in this center. Without the equipment that exists there, without the medication the hospital has, many people in critical condition would not survive. They can only be saved, they can only survive when they get specialized and careful attention, such as the care they can receive in that building.

What is the significance of those 60 beds? What is the significance of those new operating rooms? It means that we will save many more lives than we could before. This has to be good news for our people and for the residents of this area, to know that no where in the world is there any installation that is better than this one. We are willing to admit that there may be some institutions that are similar to this one, even the same as this one, for some super rich people in the United States or in Europe. However, they could not say they have a better hospital than the Cuban workers of these proletariat areas in our capital have today. [applause]

All this medical development is very important. The scientific research and development that we are conducting is very important, very important [repeats himself]. Perhaps we can state how we are doing this. We can hear about this but we may not always be aware of the importance of this area.

If, however, you experience what we have recently experienced—the airplane accident that occurred a week ago when the plane unfortunately crashed about 200 or 300 meters off the end of the runway into a residential area after trying to take off during a storm.... [changes thought] The plane became a projectile carrying almost 80 tons of gasoline which it needed to cross the Atlantic. Several houses were destroyed and leveled. It was a fuel bomb that fell on those houses. In addition, the plane carried 113 foreign tourists, 2 Cuban passengers, and 11 crew members. The impact was truly terrible.

We were there moments after the crash. We were able to observe it and apprise the situation. We saw some magnificent things, like the mobilization of the population, their organization, how quickly [clears his throat] the injured were evacuated. Neighbors were organized into defense zones and they received immediate support

from health workers, an ambulance station that was close by, from firemen, Interior Ministry personnel, and the Armed Forces.

However, the injuries were terrible, terrible. There are no words to describe it. Some people received relatively minor burns when burning material fell on them or when they crossed the flames. Those who were directly under the accident, however, received terrible burns. Their skin was 80, 90, 95, 100 percent burned.

Wherever possible, we used the new medication that we are manufacturing. It is very efficient. These medications can save the lives of people who have received burns over 50 percent of their body. This medicine can save the lives of people who have received burns on 60 to 70 percent, or even a little more, of their bodies. However, it can't help when burns are from 85 to 90 or 100 percent of a person's body or when the burns are deep. The percentage of burned skin is not the only factor; the depth of the burns is also a consideration. In some cases, deep burns don't even leave a trace of skin. The skin and the muscle are both burned.

In this case, major traumas from the accident were combined with burns. Three of the passengers survived for a matter of minutes [corrects himself] two of them survived for a matter of minutes. They were taken to the Calixto Garcia Hospital. Some of them were dead on arrival while others died shortly after they were taken to the hospital. Some people have survived with terrible traumas and terrible burns. They are still alive and our doctors are truly making an extraordinary effort to keep them alive.

This accident was very sad but there were some especially very sad events. People who weren't traveling, who were at home, became accident victims. Their homes were leveled. Their homes were torn apart and scattered around. A few dozen neighbors died. Those people from this neighborhood who were severely burned on more than 90 or 80 percent of their bodies have died despite the efforts of the medicine or the doctors.

For example, I know of a married couple who were family doctors. They graduated a few days ago in the Karl Marx Theater. They were selected to work in Santiago de Cuba Province. The best students are always selected for this task. They were visiting their parents' house. I think they were the husband's parents. The plane crashed and killed the mother and father. The wife, who was a doctor, received very serious burns on more than 90 percent of her body. She died from the burns after 2 or 3 days. However, the husband survived. He was at the Miguel Henriquez Hospital.

Only 3 days ago, I visited Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital to check on the progress of the only survivor of the foreign passengers. We were briefed on his case at the Ameijeiras. We visited those hospitals where accident victims, principally neighbors, were being treated.

At the Ameijeiras Hospital, I was told that the man was making an effort to win the battle. They were talking about the survivor, who was a doctor. He had a high percentage of burns over his body. He was aware of the accident. The Ameijeiras doctors told me that the comrade had a will to live. He decided to live. They were.... [changes thought] I think this was on Friday. We visited there on Friday or Saturday. We were informed of everything that was being done for the Italian tourist, and everything that was being done in cooperation with the Ameijeiras Hospital to try and save this doctor. However, on Sunday, in the JUVENTUD REBELDE, newspaper, a report was carried that Dr Orlando Jimenez Chavian had died.

Up to that very day—I don't know if it was Saturday night—we still hoped that he would be saved. Above all, that desire was based on the fact that the man was conscious, on the fact that the doctor who lost his wife, father, and mother had the will to live and he confronted his pain, everything, to save his life. Nevertheless, science lost this battle. The doctors were fighting an almost impossible battle but they fought because one cannot give up the battle for a single moment.

What does this demonstrate? It shows that science is still not sufficiently efficient to resolve certain problems. I am talking about truly serious problems. Specialists in this area know what an 85 or 90 percent burn is and what organs it can affect.

The doctors tried everything they had. We have now been analyzing other things that exist throughout the world, besides what we are doing, in the area of burn treatment. This is in addition to the medication that is being manufactured with the epidemic growth factor, which we are using. We sent a certain amount of this to the Soviet Union after the accident, and the Soviets have been very impressed with the effect of this medication. It helps the skin to grow and it creates conditions for the skin to grow. It protects against infection. Infection is one of the most dangerous factors in burn cases.

Our doctors and researchers have developed ozone equipment. Ozone is a tremendous bactericide. The Calixto Garcia Hospital itself has an ozone chamber for burn patients. They have now requested a very modern bed that recently came out. It does not use ozone, but the patient lays on an air mattress. It has a mechanism that reduces contact to a minimum. For example, a patient with burns on his back has to be kept on a bed.

We are analyzing all this. The doctors have had access to the most efficient antibiotics. When they use their reserves, they ask for more from abroad, from anywhere, at any price. That is how they have struggled.

When we learn about some of these things, we can appreciate the value of a unit such as this intermediate intensive care unit. I'm talking about burns. They are treated in all cases. What is valuable is a burn unit, such as the one we built in the Miguel Henriquez Hospital.

We can appreciate the value of specialized and dedicated personnel to treat those patients. We see the value of research.

Perhaps one day, our knowledge, our science will allow us to win a battle such as the battle that was lost for the doctor who wanted to live. That is why research is so important. There is nothing that hurts as much as impotence when facing death. These hospitals are battlegrounds against death. These doctors, health workers, nurses, and technicians are soldiers of the army that fights against death. In circumstances such as this, one better understands the value of the efforts made by the revolution for man.

In this very hospital, we will soon have a very important service which is a center, a complete unit, dedicated to the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa. To many people, this term may be new. At one point, it was new to me, too. I didn't know for a long time that this disease existed. This illness affects sight. A certain amount of necrosis, capitulation [as heard] of the blood vessels occurs in the eyes because the eye nerves are affected. A person begins to lose some sight. It's as if someone were covering his vision like this or like this. He only sees portions. At a certain time he might only have center vision. It would be like looking down the barrel of a rifle. He would only see a little bit, until he completely lost his sight.

This disease affects tens of thousands of people throughout the world to a certain degree. The causes of this disease are being studied. There are tens of thousands of people in our country affected by this disease in various stages. It's the kind of disease that is very important to diagnose at an early stage.

Fortunately, for our country, as Tanya said, such treatment is available. Above all, we must say that thanks to the dedication for almost 30 years of one of our professors who works here in this hospital, we have been able to develop certain techniques to fight this disease, arrest it, and, in many cases, cure it. We have been able to recover a considerable amount of a person's sight. We could say that the results of this research occurred in a 2-year period. We might have lost a little time, not a lot, but a little bit of time was lost. We could have promoted this work earlier and thus we could have gotten results earlier. At this moment, we can say that we are the only country in the world that possesses this technique. Some doctors have mastered this technique but there are very few.

Now we must try and extend these services to other areas in the country. We're thinking about doing this in Sancti Spiritus, Las Tunas, perhaps in Santiago de Cuba. We have to train personnel for this. However, it's not just a matter of applying the results that have been attained. The research must continue. We must have the cooperation of different research centers so that they can cooperate in research to determine its causes, all the factors that lead to the disease, the medication that can be developed. This should be joint work to advance in this area.

This hospital will be the reference center for this disease. It will be the center of information for several years. We might be able to have an institution that is exclusively dedicated to this.

Where is the professor [Dr Orfilio Pelaez]? Let's call him. Come up here professor so people can meet you. [applause] Here we have the professor. Would you like to say something? [Professor comes up to the podium]

[Professor] We have worked with our hearts inspired by your wise advise, your wise teachings. We are still gathering strength. We encourage the youth to help us continue strengthening our work and fighting for our people, for the people [repeats himself], for the entire world, to prevent the terrible blindness that comes from this disease, and to carry out the triumphs that the revolution has provided Cuba so that we can extend these victories to our fraternal peoples. I pledge before you that despite the time we have apparently lost, we are certain that we will firmly proceed and advance much more. Thank you. [applause]

[Castro] Dr Orfilio Pelaez is the vice dean of the Salvador Allende Medical School. He has conducted that work primarily here in this hospital. That is why the Salvador Allende now has a new prominence with this work. What are we going to do? What are we going to do to gain some time?

There is a pavilion called the Jesus Menendez. It has over 60 beds. It is being repaired for a specific use. Several readjustments are being done in the hospital. We will turn the Jesus Menendez unit into a treatment center for retinitis pigmentosa. It needs a roof. We are reconstructing the building.

What did we do? When the contingent finished this building, we gave the planners, the engineer, and the contingent the project of roofing as quickly as possible, quickly remodeling that building. It has individual rooms, individual baths. It will also have individual showers. We are thinking about remodeling it well. We have looked for space in the vicinity to construct the laboratories that are needed. We do not want to sacrifice beds in this unit. Building the lab outside is one alternative. It might be a 2-story building that will also house administrative offices, the library, etcetera. This way we will have a full unit of 50 beds for the treatment of patients.

Why 50 and not 64 beds? Some area must be sacrificed to improve the quality of each of those rooms. We will have 50 beds and we will have a center with the equipment it needs and the laboratory it needs so that the Dr Pelaez's team can work there.

Dr Pelaez works with three doctors. One of them is very advanced in these techniques. She recently got sick, very sick. She had to receive intensive care. We have been closely watching the progress of her disease. We do not want to have the bad luck of not resolving the problem.

According to reports, she is progressing, she is progressing [repeats himself] well. Her doctors are certain that they can save her. Of Dr Pelaez's disciples, this doctor is the most advanced.

Now how long will it take to build that center. Equipment is now being bought for that center. Its construction depends on the contingent. They do not want to say yet how long it will take them to build it. We'll see how long the planners think it will take them to finish. The contingent is already there at the building in the mornings. That ward will certainly be finished first and it can be used while the equipment arrives. We will work day and night on it, right? Is that right, Marco, or will we only work during the day?

[Marco] We will make the working day longer, Commander.

[Castro] You think it's better to lengthen the working day? You're not concerned, Marco?

[Marco] Of course not, Commander. [laughter]

[Castro] We'll study this. All the material, everything is available. We'll see how quickly we finish. This project is of great importance to Cuban medicine, even for international medicine. We will finish that center as quickly as possible.

Other doctors will be trained at that center. I have already mentioned three provinces. The doctors will be trained little by little here and we will increase the number of workers here, the number of opthalmologists, opthalmologists who perform surgery, to develop research and results.

The Salvador Allende not only has one of the best intensive pediatric care units, intensive intermediate care units, and surgical rooms, it will also have this center that will be of great national and international importance.

They are also preparing a maternity ward. There is a deficit of maternity beds in this area. I think that is another task that you contingent members can work on. There are other things that can still be done here, right? They say that progress has been made on the construction of the maternity hall, the maternity ward of this hospital. Another plan we have is to associate, wherever possible, the maternity unit with the clinical-surgical center, as we have done in the Julio Trigo Hospital. This is because of the high quality of the medical staff in clinical-surgical hospitals. They have a large number of specialists that would be impossible to find in a hospital that solely dedicates itself to maternity.

All these factors have turned the Salvador Allende into one of the best hospitals in the country. We should add that we were going to install a used computerized axial tomography [CAT] unit that was coming here from the Cimex [State Enterprise for Import-Export]. We are also constructing the building, the factory to build that equipment. It is very sophisticated, very important equipment.

We were asked not to install the used equipment. They [not further identified] said they were willing to receive the used CAT unit and discount its value to install a new one. That is what Comrade Teja [Public Health Minister Julio Teja] was telling me this afternoon. I was glad to hear this. It's better to have new equipment. If they deduct the price of the used equipment, then that's excellent, magnificent.

The Miguel Henriquez Hospital will also have this equipment. The Calixto Garcia Hospital will also have it and we hope that, in general, the most important hospitals will have it, not just in Havana, but also in Santa Clara, the eastern provinces, in Camaguey.

This way, little by little, that 100-year-old hospital is becoming one of the best in the country with good organization, reasonable criteria. We began to apply the policy of 1.7 per bed, the rationalization of personnel. That has been applied. This hospital will have 150 workers who were in the hospital. Some new workers will also be added.

Here among us, besides the neighbors, workers, and students, we have a large group of Chileans residing in our country. They received exile [corrects himself]. They exiled themselves to our country after the military coup on 11 September 1973. That was 16 years ago.

They held a ceremony in the House of the Chilean Committee of Solidarity where the Chilean Embassy in Cuba once was housed. A few hundred of them met there to unveil a bust of Salvador Allende and a plaque in honor of the 39 Chilean citizens who died in Cuba during the past 16 years. It was a very solemn, moving ceremony. It reminded us of those men and women who choose Cuba as their place of residence and who have given their lives to the noble Chilean cause during these long years. Some have died in combat, others have died as a result of natural causes. Today, they were remembered in that location with that plaque.

An important event is drawing near in Chile: the upcoming elections. The opposition will undoubtedly win over the forces that represent Pinochet's repressive and bloody regime.

I had the opportunity to speak more intimately with them for a few moments there. That is why I will not repeat here the ideas I expressed there. I will allow myself to reiterate that during the years that this large contingent of Chileans has been in our country, our ties of friendship and fraternity have expanded even more.

Several generations were there. They have become mixed, if one could talk about mixing Chilean and Cuban blood. I don't know if we can talk about mixing because we are of the same blood. Marriages have occurred. Chilean couples have had children here. There are children who were born of Cuban-Chilean marriages. It is possible that a large number of them will return to their fatherland. We were telling them today that they will have every opportunity to go and come back [words

indistinct]. They will have every opportunity to return to Chile with their families. If they want to live here, they will have every opportunity to come and live here with their families.

It was moving to see all that and think all this. It was moving and contradictory for them as well as for us because of the years we have lived together. At the same time, among those sad aspects, there is also the hopeful aspect that they might very soon be able to return to their fatherland to continue the battle there for a true democratic opening and, in the more distant future, for a democratic and revolutionary Chile. [applause]

Today marks the 16th anniversary of that heroic event. Perhaps at this very hour or perhaps just moments before, Salvador Allende was dying, defending independence, democracy, the revolution, and socialism in Chile with his weapons in his hands. He said that perhaps everything would change some day [words indistinct]. Today we see that they are beginning to open up.

To those of us who see Salvador Allende as one of the greatest heroes of our America, one of the men who, with great dignity and bravery, defended his fatherland and his ideas, it pleases us to have here among us hundreds of Chileans from all the parties and democratic and progressive forces of Chile. It is truly very pleasing to be able to commemorate that anniversary with this project.

Salvador Allende was not just a politician, a statesman. He was also a doctor. He knew better than anyone what had to be done and what could be done in the health area for the people.

We are very pleased that this hospital that bears his name is becoming one of the best in the country. This hospital that bears his name is becoming an important scientific center for certain diseases. We are pleased that this hospital has the personnel and the means available to carry out his noble work.

Everything here is Allende because Allende is the symbol. [Castro claps his hands once] The hospital is named Allende. The park is named Salvador Allende and the medical school, one of the largest in the capital, is named Salvador Allende. We can say that we have a health complex that bears the name of Salvador Allende and we hope that it will be one of the best in the country.

We are convinced that the workers, the students of this complex will know how to rise to the level of a man as prestigious as Allende. They will know how to rise to the level of Salvador Allende's dignity and heroism.

Fatherland or death, we will win!

Official Criticizes U.S. Antidrug Program

FL1509025489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Raul Gonzalez, top Cuban representative at the second inter-regional conference of chiefs of national organizations in charge of fighting drug trafficking, has asserted that there are no reasons to believe in the honesty of the U.S. antidrug trafficking program.

In the meeting being held in Vienna, Gonzalez questioned the idea of authorizing the presence of U.S. troops in Colombia because this violates Colombian sovereignty, and because Bogota should face this struggle by itself. He added that the United States is in a very difficult situation because it is the center of drug smuggling, and if it completely resolves its situation it could be believed that the problems drugs create could begin to be solved at the world level.

The second inter-regional conference of chiefs of national organizations in charge of fighting drug trafficking began in Vienna last 11 September and will end on Friday, 15 September. It is being hosted by the United Nations.

Coverage of Tripartite Commission Continues

Peace Obstacles Analyzed

FL1409204389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] After a long morning session of talks, the fifth regular meeting of the joint Angola, Cuba, and South Africa tripartite commission, which is overseeing the fulfillment of the peace agreements in southwest Africa, ended around 1400. The analyses of the obstacles for peace in the southwest African region are scheduled to resume at the Palace of Conventions this afternoon.

Joining Cuba, Angola, and South Africa as observers are American and Soviet representatives, the deputy chief of the UN Transitional Assistance Group in Namibia, and the special representative of the UN secretary general in that territory. The Cuban delegation to the tripartite commission is headed by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

No Heated Debates Reported

FL1409184589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Report by Alexis Sotolongo]

[Text] The second session of the tripartite commission meeting continues to be held in Room No 2 of Havana's Palace of Conventions. The session began at 1000 today after waiting 1 hour for the arrival of the South African delegation.

As is known, this type of meeting is held behind closed doors and is inaccessible to the press. For this reason, we have not been able to find out, in detail, what has been discussed. Nevertheless, nondiplomatic sources, to which I have had access, say that this meeting will not have the heated debates characteristic of the other joint commission meetings.

Jorge Risquet Receives Visiting PRC Official

FL1409115489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and Secretariat of the Central Committee, has received Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and director of its International Liaison Department.

Zhu Liang and his accompanying delegation are in Cuba on an official visit. The meeting was held in an atmosphere termed as fraternal and mutually understanding. Both leaders exchanged information on the internal matters of both nations, as well as important aspects of the present international situation.

During the meeting of the Cuban and PRC officials, the possibilities of increasing bilateral relations between the CPC and the PCC were discussed.

Commentary on Salvadoran Guerrilla Talks Cited

FL1509020789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1939 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The rebels' decision to express their willingness to abandon the armed struggle and make of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FLMN] of El Salvador a legal party, far from weakening the guerrilla, strengthens its revolutionary position. A commentary written by Rita Ceballos from PRENSA LATINA notes that, in addition of to being decisive in the achievement of a drastic internal change, the proposal made by the guerrilla is a political blow to the Salvadoran extreme right.

PRENSA LATINA adds that the disarmament and peace offer gives Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani a situation he has to resolve in the international area. No matter what the official response is during the consultation sessions being held in Mexico between the extreme right's Nationalist Republican Alliance and representatives of the FLMN, the Salvadoran reactionaries will not benefit. The FLMN said in the meeting in Mexico that either the regime accepts the conditions suggested by the guerrilla or President Alfredo Cristiani announces he favors a war he cannot win.

The guerrilla proposes the total cessation of hostilities before 31 January, the end of the repression, the self-cleaning of the Army, and the restructuring of the municipal and electoral system, among other proposals. PRENSA LATINA comments that the swiftness with which the guerrilla chiefs presented their proposals and their contents put Cristiani's cabinet on the defensive, as well as its maneuvers to disarm the revolutionaries. The agreement of ARENA, the ultra-right ruling party, to talk with the guerrilla opens a possibility for peace in El Salvador. We will have to wait and see.

Medical Services System Donated to Ethiopia

FL1409230689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The entire medical services system of the Cuban military mission in Ethiopia has been donated to this sister nation as part of the solidarity operation. This was done with the handing over of the hospital for internationalist combatants in Harer, located over 560 km east of Addis Ababa. The center has two rooms for admissions, X rays services, a dentist chair, clinical and bacteriology laboratory, and several outpatient consultation cubicles. The unit will be used as part of the Police Hospital in Harer, Harer Province.

The hospital and assistance network includes a reinforced medical post and another building in Addis Ababa with similar resources as the one in Harer, plus several tons of medications.

It was precisely in the southern outskirts of Harer where the Cuban combatants waged a battle for the first time against the Somali invaders on 22 January 1976. This is where the first Antillean internationalist blood was shed in the African horn and where the counteroffensive was carried out. This counteroffensive crushed the expansionist attempts of the attacker.

A medical mission from our country will remain in Ethiopia after the Cuban combatants return to the fatherland. It is composed of doctors and technical assistants who join the over 300 internationalists scattered throughout the entire Ethiopian country. The Harer doctors, in particular, have the huge task of working with the Ethiopian doctors and nurses units there to help alleviate the physical ailments of some 10 million inhabitants in the Harer Province.

Persons Implicated in Train Accident Disciplined

FL1409222089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Nine more of the people implicated in the 19 August train accident on the bridge over the Jaiba River in Guantanamo, which resulted in 18 deaths and 221 injured, have been replaced or released from their posts or work positions and will be turned over to the tribunals to face the penal responsibilities they may have. This was announced by the Transportation Ministry after it concluded its investigation of the case. They are: engineer Juan Esteban Zambrano Ruiz, engineer assistant Benito Ozorio Argote, track laborer Juan Pico Duany, and the chiefs of track brigades, district chief of tracks, district chief of bridges, the chief of the Guantanamo terminal, and the inspection chief of Guantanamo Province.

Also, in the analysis of the various factors present, other administrative responsibilities have been made evident. They indirectly triggered the irregularities detected, and will be subjected to severe disciplinary measures. This is in line with what has already been reported to our people in that the fundamental causes of the accident were lack

of discipline, lack of control, and the demands of some cadres and officials of the Eastern Railroads Division. The directors of the division and of the Guantanamo administrative unit were demoted from their posts.

Regarding the plane accident which occurred last 3 September in this capital, newspaper GRANMA reported that citizens Mirtha Gonzalez Rodriguez and Octavio Santacruz Castro, 45 and 58 years old, respectively, died at the Miguel Henriquez Hospital as a result of burns and multiple trauma.

Caribbean Affairs

Cuban CTO Application Formally Rejected

FL1409194189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Report by Mark Lee]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Sept 14, CANA—Caribbean ministers for tourism, who are meeting here, have formally announced that Cuba's application for membership in the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) has been denied. But they did not rule out the possibility of Havana joining the organisation in the future.

"It was decided by the Council of Ministers (at their meeting Tuesday) that the application of Cuba had to be deferred—that Cuba would not be admitted at the present time," CTO Chairman Baltron Bethel of the Bahamas told a press conference on Wednesday. "But the door is left open in the fullfilment of certain requirements in the future," he said.

The requirement is Cuba's recognition of the Government of Grenada which it has consistently refused to do since the United States-led invasion of 1983 that dislodged the Marxist people's revolutionary government.

Bethel said the CTO would welcome Cuban representatives to register and participate in the public sessions of CTO proceedings. The director general of Bahamas tourism said the matter of ideology was not the concern of the CTO but that of Caribbean heads of government. He announced that Antigua and Barbuda's membership had been ratified and the application of Venezuela was expected to be accepted as soon as it was completed.

The CTO is a regional association of 29 Caribbean governments in all language groups along with private regional and international hotel and travel industry interests.

Over 1,000 delegetes are meeting here at Carnival's Crystal Palace Resort and Casino for the 14th (as heard) Annual Caribbean Tourism Conference—the first since the Caribbean Tourism Research and Development Centre and the Caribbean Tourism association merged in January to form the CTO which is headquartered in Barbados.

Special Assistance to French Caribbean To End

FL1409143589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The head of the European Commission says France's Caribbean possessions will not receive any special development aid after 1992. Radio France International quotes Jacques Delors as saying Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana will be treated like any other lesser developed areas of Europe. France had urged the European Community to target more development aid to the Caribbean areas to help it catch up with Europe. 1992 is when Europe becomes one trading block. Many leaders in the French overseas departments fear the move will prompt unemployed Europeans to flock to the French territories.

Bahamas

Prime Minister Urges Region To Pool Resources

FL1409160789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bahamas Prime Minister Lynden Pindling is appealing to Caribbean countries to pool resources to attract more tourists to the region. He made the appeal yesterday at Nassau at the opening of the 13th Annual Caribbean Tourism Conference. He told the delegates that pooling resources is the first step toward increasing the regions's share of the world market.

Dominica

Prime Minister Begins 2-Week Visit Abroad

FL1409154589 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has begun a 2-week trip which begins in Taiwan. There she will meet President Li Teng-hui and other officials. Mrs Charles will also visit state housing, school, and agricultural projects. From Taiwan, the Dominican leader travels to Japan for more government meetings, and a conference of the International Democratic Union.

Haiti

Conacom To Hold Second Congress 15-17 Sep

FL1409184089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Excerpts] More than 2 years after the movement was formed in Thor [section of Port-au-Prince], the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] is preparing to hold its second national congress at the (Vertai Nightclub) in Port-au-Prince. The congress, scheduled for next 15-17 September, will undoubtedly be marked by Conacom's official emergence as a political party. According to Victor Benoit

[Conacom official], the party could be a broad political instrument comprising all the social strata that are eager for change.

Some 700 delegates will attend this second Conacom congress, including international political figures.

[Begin Benoit recording] As Conacom's supreme authority, the congress will also set forth its position on the current situation and will elect certain organization officials. A certain number of foreigners have already announced that they will be attending the congress. Certain international figures will speak at the opening ceremony, including Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [Parti Revolutionnaire Dominicain], PRD, and president of the Socialist International's Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the eve of its congress, Conacom is very much aware of matters that most concern the nation. First is the aggravation of the extreme poverty of the urban and peasant masses, due to an unprecedented rise in the cost of living.

Second is the climate of insecurity affecting people from all social classes, in particular the peasants. This climate hinders the functioning of socioeconomic, political, and religious organizations, which are the only real breeding grounds for Haiti's integrated development.

Third is the provisional military government's dangerous economic policy, which was recently illustrated by the application of the International Monetary Fund's antisocial recommendations.

Fourth is the Haitian people's justified uneasiness because of the government's reluctance, if not refusal, to take concrete measures aimed at ensuring that democratic elections to solve the the current political situation be held within a reasonable length of time.

Fifth is the justified wonderment of the Haitian people, in view of the electoral council's hesitation over making the electoral calendar public.

Sixth is the matter of alliances between political organizations. [end recording]

At the press conference Conacom criticized severely the Avril government's economic policy.

Jean Claude Bajeux [Conacom official] says the austerity announced by the government is a farce because there is no clarity in the government where unscrupulous businessmen are making the rules. Mr Bajeux says that there is currently a waste of government property going on, just like under Duvalier. Bajeux rejects the economic decisions reached by the Avril government.

Conacom feels elections remain the only solution to the current crisis. However, says Victor Benoit, elections must be held within the norms prescribed by the Constitution of 1987, and within a reasonable length of time.

[Begin Benoit recording, in Creole] There are conditions necessary for holding elections including technical work that the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council] must do, as well as (?general political conditions) that we feel have not yet been (?met). However, the country cannot remain indefinitely in a provisional situation. We are very clear on this.

There has been a provisional government in place for 1 year now. It is time there was an end to this provisional business. This is why we sent a memorandum to the CEP advocating holding elections within a reasonable length of time. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Conacom leaders said that alliances with other political groups are not to be discarded. A definitive answer to this question will be forthcoming after the congress, which ends next Sunday.

Former Army Guards Form New Organization

FL1409192089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Former presidential guard soldiers discharged from the Army shortly after the 17 September 1988 coup d'etat are calling for a noise-making session at noon on Monday 17 September [date as heard], to protest the Avril government. These former soldiers have formed the 17 September People's Organization [Oganizasyon Popile 17 Septemb], OP-17, headed by former sergeant Frantz Patrick Beauchard. They held a news conference yesterday.

[Begin unindentified speaker recording] The day 17 September of every year is going to be Army Grass Roots Day. This will be a day for all patriots in the Army to be in unity with the entire Haitian people. This will be a day for the soldiers' revolution to change the face of the Army, to be in solidarity with the entire Haitian people, to make all the soldiers' demands heard, and to make everyone understand that the soldiers and the Haitian people are one and the same. It is only the uniform they wear and the weapons they carry that make them seem different.

The day 17 September will be a day for all patriotic former soldiers, all patriotic organizations, and everyone from the Haitian masses who supported us in the cooperative struggle for the liberation of Haiti.

Although certain people within the sector we were combating managed to overthrow us, and by means of Machiavellian wheelings and dealings these same people are still riding on the coattails of the 17 September movement, we won't let them have the date of 17 September 1988. It was at 0200 on 18 September 1988 that General Avril and his accomplices wheeled and dealed to take over the movement. This is why we are claiming 17 September as our day, a day for soldiers—the patriotic former soldiers, workers, and peasants who are in the Haitian people's camp. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Bolanos Appointed New Finance Minister

PA1409195889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1853 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] San Jose, 13 Sep (DPA)—Rodrigo Bolanos, 40-year-old president of the Costa Rican National Stock Exchange, has been appointed finance minister to replace Fernando Naranjo, who resigned a few days ago.

Bolanos has also been manager of Costa Rica's Central Bank and is one of the young prominent economists of the past decade.

Naranjo was the third minister in President Oscar Arias' cabinet to resign in recent months. Guido Fernandez resigned as information minister and Luis Paulino Mora resigned as justice minister.

As is already traditional in Costa Rica, in the last months of an administration, some ministers resign to become involved in the political campaign of the ruling party candidate or in private enterprise activities.

President Oscar Arias ends his term on 8 May 1990, but on 4 February 1990 the Costa Ricans will choose the new president for the 1990 - 1994 term.

El Salvador

Army Report Implies FMLN Broke Truce

PA1409221589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1950 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Sep (AFP)—The Salvadoran Army implicitly accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of breaking a 10-day unilateral truce that started on 13 September, when they reported rebel harassment and sabotage actions in different parts of the country.

The Salvadoran rebels began a cease-fire on 13 September to "create the best possible conditions" for the dialogue that their representatives are presently holding with a government delegation in Mexico City.

However, today the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported clashes with the rebels during the past 24 hours that left four rebels dead and four wounded. Also, two soldiers were wounded by the rebels.

According to the official information, the main armed clashes took place in the northern areas of the conflictive Chalatenango and Morazan Departments, located in the northern and eastern part of the country, respectively.

Furthermore, the military report indicated that the FMLN is responsible for the destruction of two passenger buses. The action took place early this morning in the city of Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department.

Coprefa asserted that the rebels damaged a U.S.- manufactured helicopter when it was on a supply mission in the eastern part of the country.

The official report also noted that the Armed Forces have control over the Salvadoran territory and are presently conducting military operations with four counterinsurgency battalions, one military detachment, and four infantry brigades.

According to the military press office, these actions will enable the Army "to comply with the Constitutional mandate of safeguarding national sovereignty."

Rebels Issue Bulletin

PA1509021289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 15 Sep 89

["Press bulletin" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on 14 September—place not given]

[Text] Today, 14 September, the chiefs of the Salvadoran Army Arce Battalion state that the FMLN has broken the unilateral truce. The Arce Battalion chiefs said that clashes took place in the area of Perquin and admitted that two soldiers were killed in the clashes.

In regard to those statements, we consider that:

1. For 7 years and after having been expelled from that area, the government forces do not have fixed positions north of Morazan Department. Since the beginning of our truce, Arce Battalion troops have begun to enter our territories. Thus, the casualties sustained by the Arce Battalion are a result of actions in which the FMLN acted in defense of its forces.

2. All enemy units that cross the Torola River during an operation [word indistinct] become a military target and more so in this case, because the Armed Forces bombed and strafed Perquin civilians, among whom there have been casualties.

3. We reiterate our position of maintaining the truce during the established days just as we have been doing, although up until now the regime has failed to express any goodwill; has refused to allow the evacuation of the war disabled; and has increased the number of bombings against the civilian population.

FMLN Agrees on Some Government Proposals

PA1509024489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0101 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Sep (EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrilla movement today proposed to the Salvadoran Government that representatives of international organizations and the Salvadoran Catholic Church attend the upcoming meetings between the rebels and the government.

According to sources close to the meeting that representatives of President Alfredo Cristiani's government and

of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) have been holding in Mexico City since 13 September, the guerrilla movement mentioned the United Nations and the OAS among those international organizations.

The guerrilla movement stated that the Salvadoran Catholic Church representatives can act as observers, mediators, or witnesses.

The FMLN also stated that it agrees with Cristiani's government that the commissions participating in this type of dialogue for peace in El Salvador should have the same number of members.

The guerrilla movement added that the commissions should be a permanent dialogue organization and that their purpose should be to set a specific date for a new meeting between the representatives of the two sides. That meeting could be held this month, and its purpose will be to achieve peace in El Salvador after almost 10 years of war.

At that meeting, the representatives would propose a cease-fire, the initial steps leading to the FMLN's incorporation into the country's political life, and they would invite the country's political parties to participate in the peace talks.

The guerrilla movement agreed that no delegation should withdraw from the dialogue unilaterally. The guerrillas agreed to hold the next meetings inside or outside El Salvador and agreed that each side will inform the press of what transpires "as they see fit."

A spokesman of the meeting, which should conclude today, said that "the dialogue between the guerrilla movement and the Salvadoran Government representatives is ongoing and permanent."

The Salvadoran Government representatives today proposed the following points to the guerrilla movement:

1. The FMLN and government commissions must be composed of the same number of members.

2. The dialogue commission must be permanent and must meet for 2 days every 2 months.

3. Neither the government nor the guerrilla movement can withdraw unilaterally from the dialogue.

4. The commission will work without mediators and observers.

5. The Catholic Church will be allowed to be an intermediary when necessary.

6. The meetings will be held in Mexico, Costa Rica, or Guatemala.

7. Press restrictions will be maintained.

8. Joint communiques will be issued.

Demands Government Counterproposal

PA1509042389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0308 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Sep (AFP)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] today demanded that the Salvadoran Government organize a meeting before the end of September to "urgently discuss as a priority matter"—that is, the cease-fire agreement—according to a document issued by the rebels.

The document, which contains 10 points, as well as the 8 point proposal presented on 13 September by the government are being used as the bases for the talks between the two delegations, which have been extended until 1930 (0130 GMT).

The negotiation is being conducted in a "constructive climate," according to sources close to the two parties.

Representatives from the government and the guerrillas have been meeting in Mexico City since 13 September in an effort to reach an agreement for the negotiation process that would bring peace to El Salvador.

The negotiations, scheduled to conclude on 14 September with the publication of a joint communique, could be extended until late tonight, according to sources close to the two delegations.

The FMLN document discusses the organization of the upcoming peace talks and demands an "end to the war through political means in the shortest possible time."

According to the text of the FMLN document, entitled "FMLN Agreement on Procedural Norms," the guerrillas believe that, as established in the government plan, the dialogue should be "permanent in nature."

The FMLN wants "the general agenda of the dialogue process" to encompass the following:

A. A cease-fire agreement.

B. The first steps toward the reincorporation of the FMLN into civilian life.

C. Agreements for a definitive end to the armed struggle and for the total reincorporation of the FMLN into civilian life.

Yesterday, the FMLN announced its intention to declare a definitive cease-fire before 15 November and to return to civilian life before 31 January. These dates are not mentioned in the new document, which only specifies that a high-level meeting should be held before the end of September to discuss the cease-fire agreement.

The FMLN estimates that the ordinary work sessions should be held at the most every 30 days in El Salvador or anywhere else, according to the document. The government plan proposes holding 2-day long meetings every 2 months, which should be held in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Guatemala, or another country.

The FMLN document also calls for the participation in the dialogue process—as moderators and mediators—of San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, and Episcopal Conference President Msgr Romero Tobar.

The FMLN is also demanding that the UN and the OAS secretary generals participate as witnesses "in all dialogue meetings."

Finally, the FMLN believes that it would be equally advisable to invite representatives from the "social forces and political parties" to participate during some specific times in the negotiations.

Government, FMLN Agree on Time Frame

PA1509044189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0406 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Sep (DPA)—Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chaves, coordinator of the dialogue in Mexico City has announced that the representatives of the Salvadoran leftist rebels and the Salvadoran Government meeting here today established a framework and time frame for future monthly meetings to seek peace. The monthly meetings might be held in or outside El Salvador, with the presence of witnesses from international organizations and the participation of the church "if both sides agree and depending on the particular circumstances," Rosa Chavez added.

The purpose of the meetings would be first to agree to a cease-fire and ultimately to a definitive cease-fire. The agenda, with specific topics, should be drafted for the next round of negotiations, the bishop added.

A mixed commission made up of rebel leader Joaquin Villalobos and Salvadoran Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria is still drafting the joint declaration to end the first meeting between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the government aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the 10-year-long war in El Salvador.

Halt to Government Bombings Demaned

PA1409141289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Station commentary: "The Entire Nation Waits for Government Gestures"]

[Text] During the past few days the population in Perquin has been harassed by two military planes and artillery. Perquin, a city that has been sacrificed so many times; Perquin, the [words indistinct] Salvadoran city, does not have a right to peace, although we all know that the dialogue in Mexico is taking place on behalf of those who have suffered the most as a result of war. To stop bombing civilian targets and to comply with international humanitarian laws are basic gestures that the government is obliged to observe. However, today, when the dialogue suspended for 2 years is resumed, Colonel Vargas' murderous bombs killed an elderly man and terrified the population in Perquin.

At the same time, an FMLN member who was wounded in action had to be taken out of the cathedral in an agonizing state because of the actions of Cristiani, the foreign minister, and the Nationalist Republican Alliance deputies.

As we said, there are some things that the government must do, and [words indistinct]. Today, the Salvadoran legal [words indistinct] has said that the amnesty law presented by Cristiani to the assembly violates the Constitution, which establishes the obligation of providing medical attention and facilities to the fighters.

Today's events are taking place at two levels: the talks in Mexico in front of witnesses and the gestures and countergestures, in other words, what each side does or does not do here on our soil. The international community and our people will judge what happens at those two levels.

So far, the FMLN has publicly announced a new proposal, which many believe is more important than the one presented in January 1989 [words indistinct]. However, from the government side we only see grotesque gestures of fascism as the bombing and strafing of Perquin, where Julian Rodriguez, an 80-year-old man was killed.

Honduras

Azcona on Nicaraguan Elections, Wage Issue

PA1409192989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Report by (Roy Arthurs) on statements by President Jose Azcona Hoyo, date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Azcona Hoyo reiterated that his government will offer full facilities so that the International Verification and Support Commission [CIAV] can carry out their work without difficulties, practically taking for granted that the CIAV headquarters will be in Tegucigalpa.

[Azcona] "The CIAV's work of persuading the contras to demobilize has to go hand in hand with the work of ONUCA [UN Observers for Central America], which will supervise and inspect the border. They will get support; we are supplying them with offices. I am almost sure that ONUCA's general headquarters for Central America will be in Tegucigalpa. Economic assistance will be rendered by the Honduran Armed Forces to keep surveillance on their general headquarters; we will also pay the office rent."

Azcona said he felt optimistic about Managua's position on the Tela agreements, although the main part is still

pending compliance. Azcona also commented on opposition candidate Violeta Chammoro's bid for the Nicaraguan Presidency, running against Daniel Ortega Saavedra's reelection.

[Azcona] "This type of [democratic] opening is important; perhaps the opposition will win the elections in Nicaragua. I believe the parties have a good membership. Violeta Chamorro's husband fought tremendously against Somoza's dynasty. He was a member of the Conservative Party. Virgilio Godoy, who will be running as vice president, belongs to Nicaragua's Independent Liberal Party, so I believe they comprise a good platform and will sweep up most of the votes of those who oppose the Sandinist government, giving Daniel Ortega a hard time if he runs as the Sandinist candidate."

However, Azcona admitted that the great number of political parties in Nicaragua is not really an advantage to Chamorro's widow.

[Azcona] "Yes, indeed, it is a disadvantage for her and an advantage for Daniel Ortega. However, I believe most parties back Violeta Chamorro's candidacy. We feel cautiously optimistic that there will be compliance and that there can be a political way out in Nicaragua, which is what everyone wants."

The president referred to one of the Tela agreements' main issues—the demoblization of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

[Azcona] "Yes, we expect this to occur, but it is no longer in our hands; it is in the hands of the CIAV and the Sandinist government. We need to induce demobilization, and the agreements mention clearly that demobilization may be induced through contacts, through dialogue; these things that are so necessary. To induce is synonymous with to convince. This is in the hands of the CIAV and in the hands of the Sandinist government."

[Reporter] "On strictly domestic issues, there was a direct allusion to your reference to the minimum wage, and it was said that your stance was merely demagogic."

[Azcona] "No, it was not demogogic. We are going through with this. I believe that businessmen have had the full support of this government, and they have done very well all these years, so we need to redistribute. No, it is not demagogic, because in all my speeches I have said that we need to make distributions, so it is not just demagogic at this statge. What I believe is that we have tried to maintain tranquility, and because we tried to get along with the trade unions and the teachers does not mean this is demagogic. These are facts that can be seen and have taken place. Because I happen to believe that the minimum wage needs raising does not mean this is demagogic; if anything, it is fair and we are going to do it."

Azcona reacted against the National Party's idea that the ruling government had squandered millions of lempiras.

[Azcona] "One first has to see how the money has been spent. My administration decreased the foreign debt instead of increasing it. We have paid the IMF more than $180 million. Just the other day we paid them $1.5 million. We have completed projects. We have increased the number of teachers by more than 5,800. The teachers are up to date with their pay. We have increased electrical distribution to practically all parts of the country. We have built aqueducts and are resolving Tegucigalpa's potable water problem, which is going to cost between $80 million and $100 million. When the money goes to benefit the people or toward education, then there is no reason to fear having spent it as long as the money does not go into private pockets. I will go back to work on 28 January 1990. There are many people in previous administrations who had far less important jobs and who never again went back to work."

Azcona on Budget, Observer Mission, Contras

PA1509050489 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report by Scarlett Payet; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Azcona reported today that the 1990 budget proposal has been sent to Congress. The budget approved for 1989 amounted to 2,400 million lempiras. The 1990 budget has been increased by approximately 110 to 120 million lempiras, as it includes budget increases for the Health and Education Secretariats.

[Azcona] "It is a rather large percentage. The education secretariat is allotted 469 million lempiras from the national funds and the health secretariat is allotted approximately 280 million."

Some sectors will also suffer cuts under this budget—as is the case with the Planning and Budget Secretariat, which will have its own building this year. Jose Azcona said that to avoid economic problems from arising when the budget was debated, they had taken into account that the country would not receive much from coffee sales. However, there are other income producers that generate funds, he added.

[Azcona] "Income-tax revenues increase every year, so we hope they will also increase this year, considering all the extras received. Also, imports will be higher next year, and that will bring us more import-tax revenues because firms have benefitted from the extras throughout the year. Income-tax revenues are also going to continue growing. For the past 3 or 4 years, income-tax revenues have shown a consistent growth trend."

The legislative branch ends another session today. It will return to work in December, and the president believes the budget proposal will be discussed then. He said the Congress can decide whether to maintain the same 1989 budget or approve the increase.

On another subject, he talked about the ONUCA [Group of UN Observers to Central America] mission and the work it had to accomplish in the country. He denied that

Honduras had failed to support the commission. He said that all ONUCA's needs will be met if it decides to establish its headquarters in this country and that it will be given adequate facilities. He added that he agreed with CIAV's [International Support and Verification Commission] Mr Bendrel [not further identified] that problems cannot be resolved in 8 days.

[Azcona] "What happened was that the Armed Forces encountered problems, such as the helicopter accident, in the past few days. This kept us from getting all these people into helicopters and taking them, perhaps, to places that could be somewhat dangerous now. However, it is not true that we did we not cooperate with them. We received them wholeheartedly and gave them all the assistance we could. They are going to install their central headquarters here, and they will receive all our support. It would be very easy if in 8 days they could come here and resolve the problem. That, however, is not the case."

The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders say they will cooperate to effectively demobilize, repatriate, and relocate their forces in Nicaragua or any other country that gives them a hand. However, it is rumored that these statements are false and that the contras are not willing to surrender their weapons or return to their place of origin until conditions are right and also because they do not want to go back. If this is so, Honduras will have to continue to bear this burden—willingly or not—which has given us a bad image both domestically and internationally.

[Azcona] "We have to continue trying to solve this problem. As I told you, it is not in our hands and depends on the success of the efforts by the UN, the OAS, the Sandinist Government, and all the friendly governments. Of course, we will lend our support to solve the problem, but we do not have the exclusive responsibility of attaining this goal."

Official Says Extradition Treaty on Drugs Needed

PA1409234589 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Report by Myriam Mercado]

[Text] (Carlos Sosa Coello), president of the Special Commission on Drug Trafficking, has said that Honduras should sign a multilateral extradition treaty on the subject. The Honduran Constitution currently bans the extradition of Hondurans.

A multinational treaty would be required in the case of drug trafficking and more so since, according to reports, drug smuggling has been on the increase in Honduras since 1970. According to Miguel Angel Izaguirre, who was a judge in Tela at that time, 6.3 tons of cocaine worth approximately $1 billion [as heard] passed through Honduras in late 1987 alone. Other reports indicate that the Cali cartel, and most particularly the Medellin cartel, have begun to make inroads into Honduras' power structures, and Honduras now runs the risk of falling under the control of drug traffickers like Colombia.

(Sosa) said in this regard:

[Begin (Sosa) recording] The ban on the extradition of a country's nationals is not a new legal doctrine and has not been invented by Hondurans. The matter was discussed at the Montevideo Convention in 1928 and in Havana in 1933 or rather, vice versa. Pardon, it was vice versa. There is a full legal doctrine on the subject, which has been [word indistinct] for many years.

I think Honduras must not make concessions regarding its sovereignty to any single power for various reasons, particularly for reasons of sovereignty and dignity, and because this involves a political cost. However, I do believe Honduras should and could sign a multilateral treaty in which all countries would make concessions regarding their sovereignty to be able to persecute the drug traffickers. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Ortega Discusses Elections With U.S. Congressmen

PA1409193289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] If U.S. congressmen want to participate as observers in the electoral process, they must support the plan to demobilize the contras and stop hindering the external funding of the elections, President Daniel Ortega said yesterday when commenting on Sunday's meeting with a U.S. delegation led by Republican Mickey Edwards of Oklahoma.

"They would have to effectively support the contra demobilization plan. This would mean that the funds that have currently been earmarked for so-called humanitarian aid ($66.7 million approved by Congress) would be given to the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] to be used for that plan, within the framework of the political process of peace in Nicaragua," Ortega said.

Ortega said he made "this point very clear" to the U.S. congressmen and he added that "this step is in the hands of the U.S. Executive Branch, the President." In light of the negotiated solution to the conflict, congressional funds could be used to support the plan to demobilize the Somozists, Commander Ortega stressed.

He added that during Sunday's meeting, he urged the visitors to adopt a "clear and unambiguous" position concerning the funds the United States will allocate to the opposition parties. Ortega commented that according to Nicaraguan law, the United States would have to allocate $6 million so that UNO [National Opposition Union] can receive $3 million and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] can receive the other

half. "The maintenance or lifting of the economic embargo against Nicaragua is a U.S. problem, but it (the United States) cannot hinder the entrance of funds to cover the elections," President Ortega said.

He said that while the CSE requested $25 million from the state to cover the high cost of the elections, the Bush administration is "hindering the financing, exerting pressure on a number of Latin American and European countries so they will not fund the electoral process."

Ortega said he told the U.S. congressmen that the donation of some foreign equipment and machines is worthless if there are no funds to guarantee their operation. "If the United States wants to play the role of observer, it should at least fulfill the requirement of supporting this electoral process by immediately allocating the contra funds to the CIAV, and it must stop hindering the financing of the elections."

Concerning the debate in the United States on whether it should allocate $3 million or $6 million to the rightist UNO, President Ortega said: "I made it very clear to them that, in accordance with the Nicaraguan laws, it must allocate $6 million so that UNO can get $3 million and the CSE the other $3 million."

Ortega also referred to his recent tour of European and Arab countries, indicating that the trip forms part of the government's efforts to obtain more international aid to continue the economic stabilization plan in Nicaragua.

He added that "as a result of that effort, we are going to receive support that will permit us to continue facing the restrictive U.S. policy of embargo and blockade, which seeks to impose greater sacrifices on the Nicaraguan people."

ARDE's Alfonso Robelo Returns, Joins UNO

PA1409141989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1226 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] More in shame than glory, Alfonso Robelo, leader of the former ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], returned to the country 13 September to join the electoral process as a member of the UNO [National Opposition Union], the rightist coalition. In order not to create more friction among the UNO members, Robelo said that he would not seek office or leadership, adding that he will be just one more UNO soldier, clearly referring to his failure as a contra leader. Even though he signed a document stating that he has no links with the armed groups, Robelo hinted that the political opening in the country is the result of the tens of thousands of deaths caused by his former pals.

Discusses Upcoming Election

PA1409152289 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Statement by Alfonso Robelo, former Nicaraguan Resistance leader, during news conference in Managua on 13 September]

[Text] Engineer Alfonso Robelo Callejas, national leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN, in 1980, arrived in the country today. He promised to support the National Opposition Union [UNO], which will face the official Sandinist candidate in the February elections. Robelo, who was a member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, had lived in exile for 7 years. Following is part of a news conference granted by Social Democratic leader Robelo.

[Begin Robelo recording] As you can imagine, this has been a very touching day. One cannot but feel deeply moved upon returning to the fatherland. I have been abroad 7 and ½ years. I decided to return by land, to cross Penas Blancas as any other Nicaraguan citizen who will continue to struggle to ensure that his country will live in peace and democracy.

These 7 and ½ years have been difficult ones. As you all know, it is difficult to live in exile, to be far from one's fatherland. I am returning to get involved in a possible democratic process that could allow the people to participate in a civic activity and work in peace. I believe that we have all contributed to see this come about. This is encouraging; I feel encouraged; I feel moved to work.

This is why I returned. I came to work for MDN, and thus for UNO, as any other militant would. My only goal is to make a contribution to the efforts of steering Nicaragua toward the path of democracy, as I hoped I had done throughout all these past years.

In other words, I have returned to work. I am not looking for any positions; I am challenging no one. I am here to support the candidates that UNO has democratically chosen. I believe that both Mrs Violeta Chamorro and Dr Virgilio Godoy are excellent candidates. I believe that they are a winning ticket that could steer us toward a genuine democracy and that they could ensure that we will work together for genuine national reconstruction.

I believe that each one of us can make a contribution. The idea is not to push anybody aside; that is not my style. I will not elbow anyone. I have returned simply to work wherever my presence is required, with great vigor and enthusiasm, within the MDN under the presidency of Eng Roberto Urroz, a very competent leader who has also been democratically tested in the civic struggle in Nicaragua as well as in exile.

In sum, I am happy about returning to take up the challenge of democracy and for being able to contribute my share. I harbor no resentment toward anyone. I am willing to help bring Nicaragua out of the current situation, which I need not elaborate on. One only needs to

see what is going on. It seems to me that time is at a standstill here; in some cases it even seems as if the country has moved backward.

This is why this is the time to press on and unite. I believe that the leadership of Mrs Chamorro and Mr Godoy [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Civic Way Group Reportedly Financed by NED

PA1409175989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The public activities of the Civic Way must be authorized by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] or they will continue to be considered illegal. During the election campaign, the CSE is empowered to issue or deny authorizations to organizations or institutions that carry out activities such as those of the so-called Civic Way.

CSE coordinator Sergio Torres Ogregario stated this when he was asked about the activities of the so-called Civic Way. The illegal Civic Way, a part of the UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition, claims it is neutral and nonpartisan. It is financed by the NED [National Endowment for Democracy], well-known to be dependent on the U.S. CIA.

The members of the board of directors of the Civic Way include Sofonias Cisneros, Sergio Roas, Hortensia Ribas, Geronimo Sequeira, Joaquin Mejia, and Gilberto Cuadra. The latter is the president of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] while the others are well-known members of rightist political parties.

Torres Ogregario said that for the activities of the Civic Way to be legal, they must be authorized by the country's highest electoral body, otherwise those activities will continue to be illegal.

Education Minister at Independence Day Events

PA1409185589

[Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1450 GMT on 14 September carries live coverage of events in Managua to commemorate Central American Independence Day. In the Plaza of the Revolution, following the ceremonial carrying of the torch of freedom, at 1457 GMT Education Minister Fernando Cardenal addresses students, urging efforts to improve Nicaragua and praising those who have participated in military service.

At 1505 GMT, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega recites the Nicaragua pledge to the flag. An announcer at the ceremony then urges everyone to standby for a parade, which will be led by the disabled war veterans.

Contra Leaders Lay Down Weapons in 6th Region

PA1409140789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Five counterrevolutionary leaders who laid down their weapons recently were presented to the local press by the Region 6 military authorities. Antonio Lopez Chavarria, Victor Orozco Gonzalez, Antonio Sanchez Murillo, Pedro Sanchez Murillo, and Victor Sanchez Murillo are former leaders of the Jorge Salazar commands No 1 and No 2. The five men laid their weapons down on 6 September to take advantage of the opportunity the government is giving them to live and work in peace. Since the signing of the Tela, Honduras agreements, 41 contras, including 9 leaders, have left the ranks of the contra groups that operate in regions 5 and 6.

Contras Reportedly Violating Cease-Fire

PA1409224489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by M. M. Gonzalez]

[Text] San Rafael del Norte— Three counterrevolutionaries brutally murdered a peasant couple, 57-year-old Concepcion Gutierrez and 56-year-old Melida Garcia Palacios, on the evening of 10 September in Palo Blanco, San Rafael del Norte jurisdiction.

Sandinist Police reported that they are searching for criminal Juan Rivera Perez for murdering Orlando Villegas Mendez at a party of about 100 students.

The murderer is a former rebel who failed to take advantage of the guarantees given him by the revolutionary government. Showing the same criminal instincts he applied while a member of the contras, he arrived in Elida Arauz' residence and shot the student with his AK rifle.

Small counterrevolutionary groups operating in this area have kidnapped, killed, and robbed peasants.

In line with the style of former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez and in open violation of the Tela accords, contra leaders identified as "Chisperos," "Mario," "Cascabel," and Pedro Hernandez have raped women and robbed several producers of the area.

Farmer Armando Lopez reported that counterrevolutionary "Cascabel" stole 3 million cordobas that were to have been used to meet his payroll. Peasant Hilario Arauz reported that counterrevolutionaries "Chispero" and "Mario" stole a Sony recorder, four cassettes, and 250,000 cordobas from his home.

Other peasants reported that counterrevolutionary Pedro Hernandez, who heads a group of six other contras, recently murdered farm manager Juan Blandon Arauz for refusing to surrender some money.

This same criminal raped two women and beat up several peasants from El Carril for refusing to collaborate with their terrorist actions. An EPS [Sandinist People's Army] source said that these contras have broken the cease-fire.

Panama

Vice President Scores 'Disinformation' Offensive

FL1409121989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Interview with Vice President Carlos Ozores by special reporter Nelson Notario Castro, place and time not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario] Here at the Palacio de las Garzas, we are talking with the vice president of Panama's provisional government, Dr Carlos Ozores Tipaldos. Dr Ozores was also the head of the Panamanian delegation at the nonaligned summit held in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia.

Dr Ozores, do you think that the international arena, the nonaligned summit, was the first political offensive of the new Panamanian Government?

[Ozores] Well, yes. It was the first forum—well, not really a forum... [changes thought] It was the first meeting of this type. Now we have the upcoming United Nations' General Assembly meeting and Panama will have high-level representation there.

Undoubtedly, there is a U.S. offensive with regard to disinformation. The least we can do is to take advantage of forums and meetings such as this to tell the truth, since we do not have the media services the United States Government has. We also do not have the influence and pressure that can be exercised by certain news agencies.

[Notario] At present, what is Panama's situation with regard to other Latin American countries, diplomatic relations and the presence of ambassadors in Panama City?

[Ozores] Well, I do not think there has been a uniform reaction. Some countries have withdrawn their ambassador. They did this from the beginning, it is not a recent thing, until they see what the final outcome here is. Other countries have not withdrawn their ambassadors. I think that we still need to take some internal steps, which have not yet been taken, that will cause a different attitude toward us in other governments. By this I am referring, specifically, to how the 41-member group of what will be the legislative organ will be made up. I think this will play an important role in the acceptance, to a larger or lesser degree, of Panama by other governments. I also believe this will be the case with some of the governments of Western Europe.

Minister on Nation's Defense

FL1409133589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Interview with the Minister of Government and Justice Olmedo Miranda by Special Reporter Nelson Notario Castro, place and time not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario] The new minister of government and justice is Olmedo Miranda, a Torrijo lawyer. He accepted his charges in the provisional Panamanian Government from President Francisco Rodriguez.

What will be the nation's policies to defend itself? What will these policies be if the nation prepares itself militarily and economically? How will it do this?
[Miranda] Anyone who spreads disinformation should be sanctioned. I am going to be strong on this. I will respect freedom of expression, but I will also demand sanctions for anyone who does not obey Panamanian law.

[Notario] Will Panama continue to be as courteous and decent as it has been to the international press?
[Miranda] I have a lot of respect for the press, a lot of respect [repeats himself]. However, I will also demand that I be respected. As the department leader of a public ministry, which is the ministry of communications [as heard], we will respect each other and we will be respected.

[Notario] What do you think of the declarations by Eric Arturo del Valle stating that he should receive $8 million for compensation
[Miranda] I am not familiar with it so I cannot answer that. I cannot tell you anything because I do not know what the declarations are nor what they are based on.

[Notario] Would it not be the other way around, Mr Minister? Is it not the government who should demand $8 million in compensation from Mr Arturo del Valle?
[Miranda, chuckling] Perhaps you are right.

Acting Foreign Minister Denounces U.S. Actions

PA1509053789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2313 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Sep (DPA)—Panamanian Acting Foreign Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said today that the new U.S. sanctions against his country seek "to perfect Washington's work at destroying the Panamanian economy."

Gonzalez, who is also the Panamanian planning and economic policy minister, said that the Bush administration is now "limiting its sanctions to some government figures" to cause personal damage and to seek a change in the attitude of government officials.

Minister Gonzalez said that the United States will not stop Panama from continuing its struggle. Minister Gonzalez added that the Panamanian Government can

only respond to the U.S. sanctions by intensifying its efforts on behalf of all Panamanians and by continuing to resist the U.S. pressures.

Panamanian Comptroller General Abdiel Julio said the new U.S. measures seek to block trade relations and food and medical supplies to Panama.

Julio said: "Regardless of the fiscal damage inflicted on the government, the United States is being extremely unfair to the Panamanian people, because all our means of production are being directly attacked to destroy our economy."

Since the appointment of Francisco Rodriguez as Panamanian president, Washington announced that it would increase its sanctions against Panama. The United States recently suspended the sugar-exporting quota assigned to Panama and forbid all trade relations with government officials or with companies that appear on a list and that are linked with the current Panamanian Government.

Corporate Director Views U.S. Sanctions

PA1409141489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] State terrorism, as formalized by the U.S. Government's acts of aggression against Panama, is increasing daily. However, every move against us by the Bush administration is countered with a patriotic response from the Panamanian people. Now the U.S. Government has eliminated the sugar quota allotted to us.

Mateo Castillero, the general director of La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation, has stated the following to the National Information System: "The Bush administration continues to attack our country, and we are prepared to confront these threats. Basically, we are negotiating the sale of our product to other countries and governments. On 11 and 12 September, and also today, 13 September, ships that are docked at the Aguadulce port have been loaded with sugar headed for France. We are about to enter negotiations with other European countries and the USSR to sell our product. In addition, we are going to increase our domestic sugar sales. We are going to trade our product for fertilizers, for cash, or for any other type of product that will serve the country and help us to counter the attacks against our country."

Regarding the Felipillo Sugar Mill installations, he stated: "We have formed a commission that is presently evaluating the production centers. We will have to find alternatives and decide what is to be done with the Felipillo Sugar Mill infrastructure and land, as they are very valuable.

"However, our main goal at present is the coming sugar cane harvest in Santiago de Veraguas and Alanje. We need to strengthen these two production centers. For example, before going into Felipillo, which is totally unproductive at present, we would solve the production centers' problems if we managed to increase La Victoria's productivity to 75, 80, or 100 percent—it is now working at 48 percent capacity—and also increase the Alanje Sugar Mill's productivity, which, I understand, has an even greater capacity than La Victoria and is now only working at 30 percent capacity.

"We want to start strengthening the two production centers that are presently working, and we have the adequate infrastructure to do so. On 11 September, we ordered the portion of the equipment not being used in the Felipillo Sugar Mill to be transferred to the Santiago and Alanje production centers. The value of the equipment to be transferred is $1 million, and the Santiago and Alanje production centers will receive equipment valued at approximately $750,000 and $250,000, respectively.

"A work commission is presently preparing the transfer of La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation's main offices to the interior of the country, where the production centers are located. The days of the corporation are numbered if this action is not taken as soon as possible. Technical personnel will be reassigned to one of the production centers and the remaining personnel will be relocated in the country's agriculture sector. This means that employees will be relocated according to their training and wherever they can be most effective. We will not fire anybody. These are our plans and we hope to carry them out very shortly."

Castillero commented on sugarcane by-products, such as molasses: "La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation has 2.9 million gallons of molasses in stock at present. Yesterday, we started negotiations with Las Cabras Sugar Mill Administrator Ricaurte Vasquez, who has been the finance and treasury minister and planning and economic policy minister in previous administrations, and agreed on a sale of 1 million gallons of molasses that is to be paid cash upon delivery. Today, we are waiting for the results of negotiations with the Carta Vieja Rum Factory that should purchase approximately half a million gallons of molasses. The molasses that is still not sold could be exchanged for electricity with Honduras, or we could try to exchange it for fertilizers with Nicaragua or another country. La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation will definitely confront this aggression with production, productivity, honesty, hard work, and responsibility, as has been ordered by the Panamanian president. We will do all we can to do a good job, not only for the government but for the country and our co-workers."

Castillero talked about exports to France: "We are currently exporting 2,000 tons of sugar. I want to give you a bit of information I believe is important. Currently, we are seeking a market for 100,000 quintals of sugar. Before the next sugarcane harvest, we must sell 100,000 quintals of sugar abroad, about 5 metric tons. We are seeking a market for that and I believe that in a very short time, we can sell the sugar, especially now that sugar prices have risen in the international market.

Yesterday, sugar was quoted at 14 cents per pound. This is an advantage for Panama."

Regarding the sugar prices in the local market, Castillero said: "I do not believe that sugar prices should be maintained. The transfer of part of the equipment from Felipillo sugar mill to Santiago is to produce better sugar. We believe we can make an offer to the Panamanian people and even lower the price of sugar to contribute to the family basket and to sell our product. We want our product to have better quality so it can compete in the local market with private mills, which have been selling sugar locally and abroad. We will refine our sugar. That is why we are tranferring equipment to Alanje and Santiago. We are going to improve the quality of our sugar by refining it even more and making it more competitive. "I want to take this opportunity to tell you that a strange thing was going on in the Alanje sugar mill. Farmers there were buying huge quantities of sugar for animal consumption, sugar that is unfit for human consumption, and they were selling it as normal sugar. They were getting a profit out of the deal. We stopped that immediately. As soon as I came to this institution, I ordered a suspension on the sale of brown sugar. We only sold to those people with Agriculture Ministry certificates saying the sugar will indeed be used for animal consumption because it is unfit for human consumption. If you visit many small stores throughout the interior, you will find sugar being sold from the Alanje sugar mill that is not good for human consumption. For example, they were buying a bag of sugar at just over $11 and they were reselling it at $20 or $22. It was quite a business. It is also an illegal business. We have taken the necessary measures to stop that. Besides the fact that the sugar is not appropriate for human consumption, they were hurting our local sugar sales."

As for comments regarding the privatization of this state enterprise, Castillero said: "I currently do not believe it will happen. The dream of General Omar Torrijos was to create an efficient and responsible state enterprise. We are here to make the best of our efforts along with the team of men and women working here to make this an efficient state enterprise that provides social benefits, which is one of the objectives for which it was created. The La Victoria and Alanje sugar mills have a great effect in Veraguas and Chiriqui Provinces. During times of sugarcane harvests, nearly 8,000 people work in Veraguas and nearly 3,000 people work in Alanje, Chiriqui. Social conditions there are much better than in private sugar mills. The people enjoy better health, housing, and working conditions than in the private mills. Therefore, I believe that the privatization of the La Victoria and Alanje sugar mills is not the best measure. We should instead strengthen the production centers and increase their productivity. We have to manage them efficiently and honestly."

Backing for 'Panamanian Resistance' Criticized

PA1409193189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 8

[From the "Today in the World" column by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] The Voice of America (VOA), the official mouthpiece of the U.S. Government, has presented a mercenary contracted by the CIA (sheltered under a pseudonym) to announce that a powerful guerrilla movement is to begin attacks and operations in Panamanian territory in a few days and asked all youths who want to overthrow this country's regime to register at the Miami recruitment offices. This is act number one of two totally illegitimate acts. An official entity, which reflects the thinking of its government, cannot send messages using false names, much less call for the recruitment of mercenaries to form an army to attack a country that has not declared war on the United States. Hours later, in San Jose, Costa Rica a Commander "David" appeared on television representing the "Panamanian Resistance," announcing that hundreds of Costa Ricans are being recruited to fight against the Panamanian Government. David also said that armed actions would begin in various parts of Panama, assuring that already his movement had 1,200 volunteers who are training in various farms inside Panamanian territory. Second, an equally illegitimate act: Recruiting Costa Ricans into a mercenary army to attack us. Costa Rica and Panama still maintain diplomatic relations. Even if there were any differences between us—and there are none—the correct and established way is not organizing mercenary gangs. As we can see, the United States continues bent on choking us, using methods that bypass elemental international legal norms. Who then are the illegitimate ones? The unscrupulous gringos or the Panamanians who follow their own provisional government, faced by the sabotage and treasonous opposition who oppose the national agreement? Please call the home of Checho [nickname for former President of Electoral Tribunal Dr Cesar Quintero] Quintero so he can answer this question.

U.S. Helicopters Overfly Two Towns 13 Sep

PA1409185689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Rene Laurin]

[Text] Penonome—In violation of our airspace, four U.S. Army helicopters overflew Anton and Penonome at very low altitude, alarming and terrorizing residents between 0800 and 0900 today.

Three of the helicopters were the most modern models equipped with rockets, and the other was a Chinook carrying war personnel ready for landing.

The helicopters were flying so low that they could be seen perfectly.

The U.S. Army helicopters flew straight and circular patterns over Penonome and Anton.

Residents were totally alarmed and terrorized, especially when they thought that the helicopters were going to land at Penonome airport.

After causing commotion among these communities, the helicopters left for an unknown destination.

U.S. 'Electoral Terrorism' in Nicaragua Viewed

PA1409175689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Sep 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Bush's Hand"]

[Text] Nicaragua will hold general elections next year in February. The U.S. Government, through its intelligence agencies, has been brazenly maneuvering so that the elections will be favorable to the empire's interests in Central America. Besides its intelligence services, the State Department has maintained a team dedicated to electoral terrorism to serve the opposition sectors in handling campaign propaganda, distributing money, and falsifying and stealing tally sheets. These terrorist agents believe that their experience in Panama, where they claim they were highly successful, can be applied to Nicaragua.

As a first step toward proclaiming U.S. intervention in the February elections in Nicaragua, President Bush is "considering" making an initial donation of $3 million to the opposition. The State Department has allegedly said that "President Bush has been considering resorting to the CIA to control the Nicaraguan elections and to distribute money to opposition party leaders."

According to the same source, President Bush is not discarding the use of the so-called "contras" to harass the Nicaraguan Government from Honduras to create chaos during the elections, giving the United States an excuse to occupy Nicaragua militarily."

According to continental observers, President Bush has decided "that the Nicarguan elections must be won by the United States."

Violeta de Chamorro's candidacy is a simple coverup, the same as the candidacy launched by the sectors that oppose our country's constitutional government.

Any analyst can clearly see that "the United States is not going to take its hands off Central America." That is why Washington is seeking formulas to send money to the opposition, not only legally, but also through illegal channels and phantom organizations, which, under the excuse of "defending democracy" operate in Afghanistan, Angola, and the Middle East; support apartheid in South Africa; and engage in other terrorist activities throughout the world.

President Bush has said that "the February elections in Nicaragua are an opportunity to put an end to the Marxist government in Nicaragua headed by Daniel Ortega." According to analysts, "the U.S. Government is ready to spend at least $200 million to win the elections in Nicaragua." It is also ready to expand sanctions against the Nicaraguan Government, thereby increasing desperation, because it believes that the people's desperation, misery, hunger, and deaths might produce a rebellion favorable to U.S. interests."

Columnist Calls Bush Decisions on Drugs 'Correct'

PA1409224689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 4

["Mario Augusto Rodriguez" column: "Bush and Drugs"]

[Text] **1. Recognition**

I want to start out by recognizing that the new decisions announced by President Bush concerning the criminal drug business are correct. I am still not fully familiar with Bush's entire program but, through the media, I have learned that millions of dollars will be used to cure drug addicts and fight drug traffickers and their illegal economic and financial activities. My first impression is that the U.S. Government is not only showing a clearer awareness of its responsibility in this complex problem that is the scourge of vast sectors of the U.S. community, but has made the right decision by implementing tactics and strategies that could be more successful than the way the task was previously carried out, with incredible blindness, unexplainable clumsiness, and even ill-intentioned confusion.

2. Accusations

It must be recalled that many countries have repeatedly accused the U.S. Government of unfair arbitrariness in its antidrug policy. Americans held underdeveloped or developing countries responsible for the drug problem. These countries produce and process the drugs that nurture the billion-dollar market in the big, wealthy, and powerful northern nation. These countries are pressured, threatened, and asked to stop drug plantations, destroy laboratories, prevent the laundering of profits from drug operations, and even turn over to U.S. courts those the United States links to this criminal business. In fact, it is suggested that U.S. Armed Forces be sent to the affected countries to impose U.S. authority, disregarding the sovereignty and dignity of the invaded countries.

3. Lack of Action

In contrast, U.S. authorities did little or nothing to solve the true cause of this problem—the anxiety of drug users. It is obvious that if drugs are produced, processed, and exported to the United States and other developed powers, it is because they pay higher prices for them than for coffee, sugar, bananas, or petroleum. If the United States were to eliminate or at least reduce drug use, the criminal activity of drug traffickers would suffer a mortal blow. Regardless of the efforts and sacrifices made by Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and other countries, they still will never have the strength and resources

needed to eradicate an activity that U.S. consumption makes thousands of times more profitable than the most honest businesses.

4. Answer

When Mr Bush's government created a top-level organization and assigned millions of dollars to it to increase efforts against drug addiction, I thought he was responding to justified criticism in a positive manner. The U.S. media are constantly reporting that its own authorities are clearly tolerant of drug addicts and traffickers. Officials who are supposedly in charge of repressing drug trafficking are sometimes found involved in such activity. For this reason, I believe that President Bush's new program is praiseworthy, at least initially.

Education Ministry Cancels Appointments

PA1409224389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal announced a few moments ago that, in view of the austerity policy outlined by the president, and within the framework of his economic restrictions, the Education Ministry has canceled directorate appointments involving approximately 12 ministry employees.

[Begin recording] [Bernal] Within the framework of the economic restrictions prompted by the aggression Panama has been subjected to, the Education Ministry has decided to cancel directorate positions and all other collateral actions that entail salary increases that would affect the Education Ministry's budget.

This action is in keeping with the great effort of the president and the national government in response to the priorities Panama must deal with, particularly matters of health, education, food supplies, housing, and other elements that are essential to the Panamanian community's survival. Thus, the ministry has decided to suspend the fiscal effects of confirmation of the ministry's management-level personnel, which was recently carried out due to the need for the services they had been performing.

[Reporter] How many employees are involved?

[Bernal] Approximately 10 or 12 ranking employees, who perform duties that are of considerable relevance and importance for the development of the institution's basic programs. [end recording]

Concerning the reopening of the Melchor Lasso de la Vega Arts and Crafts School, Bernal said the following:

[Begin Bernal recording] I must point out that due to efforts at that school, the ministry is prepared to reopen it by next week, once various important details are finalized. I must underscore the important role parents have played in the school functioning normally. They are very interested—as is the ministry—in keeping the school open and offering its essential educational services, thus ensuring the intellectual, academic, and cultural excellence of youths who study at that important institution. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Interviewed on Mideast, Falklands, Economy

PM1409155189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 89 p 5

[Unattributed interview with President Carlos Menem in Belgrade; date not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] You have met with many Arab leaders on the sidelines of your participation in the nonaligned summit proceedings. What did you discuss with them?
[Menem] We spoke about the need to strengthen relations between the Arab states and Argentina, namely by strengthening cultural and trade ties and scientific cooperation between the two sides.

This is in addition to the need to work for a lasting peace agreement in the Middle East region.

[Interviewer] Will you be visiting any of the Arab states in the future?
[Menem] Yes, I intend to visit a number of them, both in the Gulf region and in the Arab east.

[Interviewer] Which Arab state will you visit first?
[Menem] I will visit Syria.

[Interviewer] And will you visit your birthplace in Yabrud?
[Menem] Certainly.

[Interviewer] Are you still in touch with your relatives there?
[Menem] What else would you expect? Yes, I am still in touch with them, and the latest Syrian ambassador to Argentina is one of my relatives.

And at this moment a Syrian delegation is visiting Argentina to participate in an exhibition on the Arab world.

[Interviewer] What is your view of developments in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict question?
[Menem] Our policy in Argentina focuses on backing peace efforts in the region. And I believe that the PLO has taken good steps to strengthen its viewpoint, namely by recognizing Israel's right to exist.

I feel pained and saddened to see an Arab people suffering from occupation, and that consequently prompts me to make some efforts in that regard to limit that suffering.

[Interviewer] Argentina maintains cordial relations with Israel and with the Arab world as well. Will that position be utilized to make such efforts?
[Menem] Yes, we will use the cordial relationship which binds us to both sides to boost dialogue efforts.

Our existence in that position qualifies us to play such a role, and we hope to succeed in achieving a good result.

[Interviewer] Some time ago it was said that you intended to visit Israel. It that true?

[Menem] Yes, I will visit Israel, but not until after I have visited Syria.

[Interviewer] How would you assess the meetings held between your country's government and the British Government to try to resolve the Falkland Islands question?

Interrupting, one of his aides said: Not the Falkland Islands, and mentioned the name by which the islands are called in Argentina. Then President Menem, smiling, replied: At this moment they are going well. On 17 and 18 October a meeting will be held in Madrid between representatives from Britain and Argentina to continue discussing what was discussed in the previous meetings.

[Interviewer] Mr President, even now your position on the islands question is still not clear, because when you talk about relations with Britain you pay attention to trade and freedom of navigation in the region. What is the truth?

[Menem] An agreement was signed in New York by representatives from both countries, and it dealt with all issues. It was not confined to trade but dealt with all issues, including the protection issue. And our position on that issue depends on the success of the dialogue and the steps which the British Government takes, especially those concerning its forces' presence and the freedom of navigation.

Our country's government wants to end the kind of relations which prevailed between the two countries as a result of the 1982 war and the resultant complications. And that is a strategic, not tactical, approach on our part.

[Interviewer] How do you expect Argentina to extricate itself from the economic crisis afflicting it?

[Menem] A major part of my policy and its objectives center on resolving that difficult problem, through cooperation with all influential sectors in the country and through contacts with the states and organizations concerned. The situation is not easy, but at the same time I am optimistic about the results which we will achieve in the future.

And the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Belgrade and the attachment of such importance to the economic crises facing most of the movement's states is capable, through dialogue with the rich states, of securing a solution that preserves the interests of both parties and benefits the inhabitants of the globe.

[Interviewer] How did you react to the Arab world's happiness at your success in winning the presidency?

[Menem] I feel proud and responsible at the same time. My success reflects, without doubt, a good image of the Arab world's reputation, which is a matter of pride for a son of the region. I followed the embassies' reports on that happy response.

President Menem Freezes Utility Rates Until Mar

PY1409194389 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] [NA-DYN]—President Carlos Menem confirmed yesterday the government's intention to maintain the current economic variables until next year by saying that "until March next year there will be no hikes in public utility rates," and that "the exchange rate will not be changed either if there are no unusual developments."

Menem also disclosed that the future constitutional reform will not amend the current presidential system of government, although it will include direct election (by simple majority) of president and vice-president.

Nevertheless, he ruled out reports that the political parties were to be summoned to debate constitutional reform among other topics. "There is nothing along those lines and nobody has proposed anything," he said.

In a press conference he gave at the Government House, the head of state also said he would be willing to mediate in the General Labour Confederation (CGT)'s internal conflict.

However, he made it clear that he would only do so "if I am asked to. I don't want to meddle in the workers' affairs."

On the subject of wages, Menem said only that "we will talk in October," and refused to comment on metal workers' leader Lorenzo Miguel's complaints because "I will not take part in the controversy."

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Visits Buenos Aires

PY1409214889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2113 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana is currently in Buenos Aires. In the very near future he and his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo will inaugurate the Binational Political and Integration Coordination Commission [Comision de Coordinacion Politica e Integracion Binacional]. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Government Cannot Meet Debt Payment Deadline

PY1409234689 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tomorrow is the last working day for Brazil to gather the required amount of dollars to pay a heavy portion of its foreign debt on Monday, 18 September.

Brazil needs $1.6 billion by Monday, but the Brazilian Government has confirmed that it still does not have, nor will have, the money for Monday.

Nobrega Restates Decision To Avoid Moratorium

PY1409132489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Brazil has no intention of halting interest payments on the foreign debt and it will not declare a moratorium on such payments; the country is merely trying to reconcile the interests of the parties concerned. This statement was made today by Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega after appearing before the Senate's Economic Affairs Committee.

[Begin Nobrega recording] We do not have any intention of halting interest payments on our foreign debt. This is a position of principle: Brazil will not declare a moratorium nor formally stop payments. We are only trying to reconcile objectives. On the one hand we want to maintain an appropriate level of international reserves, and on the other we want to maintain normality in our relations with the international community. [end recording]

The finance minister said, however, that Brazil does not intend to pay the interest on its foreign debt unless there is an influx of resources to maintain foreign reserves at a safe level for the country's foreign trade. The process of maintaining reserves and paying the interest has been, in the words of Mailson da Nobrega, a great exercise in negotiations with the creditor banks. According to the minister, an atmosphere of understanding has prevailed so far. Mailson da Nobrega also said that the difficulty in stabilizing inflation lies in the country's lack of an appropriate fiscal policy to meet the added obligations imposed by the new Constitution.

[Begin Nobrega recording] We have, nevertheless, the instruments on hand: the monetary policy, price control in oligopolies and monopolies, control of public indebtedness, control of the Treasury cash flow, and the maintenance of an adequate level of foreign reserves. We believe that these instruments, along with the system of general indexation of the economy, will make it possible to keep the economy on track until the next government comes to power. [end recording]

Sarney Comments on Environmental Protection

PY1409034489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The greatest pollution we have is poverty, said President Sarney today after visiting the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, IBAMA.

Sarney added that Brazil's image has been distorted abroad. He also said that the industrialized countries are the ones that pollute the earth, destroying the ozone layer and warming up the Brazilian central region plateau by burning strong fuels like oil.

[Begin Sarney recording] Air pollution is not caused by us. Brazil only contributes 0.94 percent of the air pollution. The United States contributes 28 percent; the Soviet Union, 11 percent; and Brazil, 0.94 percent. Brazil is comfortable with its position.

In the problems affecting the ozone layer and the environment, our participation is minimal. Regarding our problem of conservation, no one is more interested than we are in resolving it. The program named "Our Nature" was designed to preserve the Brazilian natural environment, the natural environment we are so proud of and which we love so much. IBAMA is fulfilling its mission very well. [end recording]

President Sarney said that thanks to IBAMA the burning of the Amazon has been reduced by 70 percent, compared to last year. IBAMA Chairman Fernando Cesar Mesquita asked Sarney about the delivery of four helicopters of the Brazilian Air Force to carry out an operation along the forest on the Atlantic coast and in the Pantanal, and to do a mapping of the environment in that area.

Chile

Pinochet on Opposition's Foreign Support in Vote

PY1409155689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet has made an appeal to struggle with unyielding faith for Chile, the most important objective. The president spoke during a lunch hosted by the Union Club at Prat Hall on the Army's Day of Glories. [passage omitted]

The president mentioned the plebiscite of 5 October 1988.

[Begin Pinochet recording] [Passage omitted] We lost the plebiscite, but the struggle would have been easy if it had taken place in Chile against isolated parties. But Europe was involved. Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands, which supplied a lot of money—this was where the illegal money was launched—were involved. France, Spain, and Italy were also involved. They do not have money to buy food, but they do have (?bread) for democracy. [sentence as heard]

In the America, we have the Venezuelans [words indistinct]. The Venezuelans also gave money to the opposition coalition, as did the Communists. [end recording]

He went on to say that for each supporter of the military government, there were 10 contenders. Now we will see what happens. This is the question for the future. We have to cooperate with Chile, struggle for our country, and make it a greater nation. Chile is different from many South American countries, the president concluded.

Minister: Cuba's Castro Supports Opposition

PY1409175689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has pointed out that it is not surprising for Fidel Castro to voice support the Chilean opposition because there are leaders in the Group of 17 [parties that form the Chilean opposition coalition] who support Fidel Castro's revolutionary policy, repression, and totalitarian system.

The foreign minister made these comments when asked about the Cuban dictator's remarks at a ceremony in Havana to pay homage to Salvador Allende.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] Fidel Castro's opinion was eagerly awaited the Group of 17. There are persons and leaders in this group who are and have been very close to Fidel Castro, while others support his revolutionary policy, his repression, and his totalitarian system, which is not even keeping pace with the evolution of communism worlwide. Therefore, it is not surprising for Fidel Castro to voice support for the Chilean opposition, for the Group of 17. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Opposition Warned Against Using Armed Forces

PY1409040889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2028 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Santiago, 13 Sep (TELAM-EFE)—Chilean Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal issued a harsh warning in anticipation of a possible victory by the opposition during the December presidential election. He stated that "the Armed Forces will never parade in homage to Salvador Allende."

Meanwhile, the commander of the 4th Army Division in Iquique, General Dardo Iturriaga Neumann, said that "the next government is not going to bully the military."

Carvajal was referring to the statement by Communist leader Luis Guastavino, who said that "in the democratic future the Armed Forces could parade in ceremonies in honor of former President Salvador Allende." The minister said that "that young gentleman is one of the mistaken Communists, because the Armed Forces are by no means going to parade for that purpose, because they were not created for that type of festivity."

Iturriaga Neumann, during a meeting with the media at La Moneda Palace, warned the next government, "whichever side it may belong to, that the military will never again be bullied as they were in the past."

In a statement published today by the daily LA TERCERA in Santiago, the commander of the 4th Army Division added that: "The speech made by (President General Augusto) Pinochet reflects the thinking of the Armed Forces, which are strongly united. The military institutions will not allow the Amnesty Law (approved in 1976) to be annulled, because that would be unconstitutional."

The military commander also said that "if chaos should break out tomorrow the Armed Forces will guarantee the institutional order." He defended the military regime by asserting that "more than any other it has been a revolutionary government and not some aberration brought about at our whim."

Opposition leaders had said that the Armed Forces represented "an obstacle to the transition toward democracy, and reiterated the need for a dialogue between the civilians and the Armed Forces."

Argentine Foreign Minister Said To Suspend Visit

PY1409184589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has reportedly declined to come to Chile to attend the Independence Day commemoration. Raul Carignano, the Argentine Foreign Ministry secretary for Latin American affairs, has returned to Buenos Aires after a discreet reconnaissance visit to Santiago.

According to a news agency report, Carignano may have advised Cavallo not to visit Santiago because the government of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet is likely to be unwilling to find short-term solutions for some of the problems in which Argentina is most interested.

Among such problems are the opening of border passes in the northern region and the lifting of plant health restrictions.

The Chilean opposition also asked Carignano not to promote ties with Pinochet's government because elections will be held within 3 months.

Labor Minister Praises Privatization Bill

PY1409201089 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Labor Minister Maria Teresa Infante has said that the draft bill that provides for the privatization of 21 enterprises will promote a social market economy.

[Begin Infante recording] It will promote a social market economy, which has been our objective over the past few years. This bill, along with thousands of other rules, will help to promote popular capitalism, thus giving Chilean workers the opportunity to own national enterprises. Among these enterprises are social security funds and the state-run companies in which workers own some of the shares.

The new bill lists and regulates the enterprises that will remain under state jurisdiction. [end recording]

The minister said that workers want to buy the shares of the enterprises that will be privatized. She mentioned the case of a group of state bank employees, who want to buy 37 percent of the shares of the bank.

[Begin Infante recording] State bank employees are demanding a chance to buy more shares. Each employee must make their own decision as to whether or not to buy the shares. However, they want to buy 37 percent of the shares. [end recording]

The minister was then asked about the situation of CUT [Central Labor Union] leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez, who will complete 1 year of banishment on 15 September. The minister replied that this is not a labor matter.

* Government Preelection Maneuvering Seen

33480273 Santiago HOY in Spanish 7 Aug 89 pp 8-11

[Article by Alejandro Guillier: "Pinochet's Senators"]

[Text] The notion that the Government would distance itself from the preelection campaigning took a critical turn last week. Personally, and in his own handwriting, the minister of mining, Pablo Baraona, put the finishing touches on the drawing up of the Government's slate of parliamentary candidates.

La Moneda's aim was to ensure the election of an adequate number of loyal senators. With that in mind, Baraona managed to get a few names on the ticket, all of them ministers in office or former ministers, for example, Bruno Siebert, Guillermo Arthur, and Baraona himself. Others close to President Augusto Pinochet, such as Miguel Angel Poduje and retired Generals Luis Danus and Sergio Badiola, are trying to improve their popularity standings and to run under their own banners.

The pressure to line up a number of senators loyal to the head of state, however, is but the tip of the iceberg.

The "hard-liners" in the Presidential General Secretariat are hammering out a withdrawal strategy. The idea is to retain at least a share of the power.

By 14 December, four key sectors of their final line of defense will have to have been made secure—and this time, tightly secure. Gen Pinochet is confident of remaining the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. And his legal advisers are now fashioning the organic laws that will regulate the military institutions in keeping with the results of the 30 July plebiscite.

Those Fits of Temper!

The package also includes a few ad hoc laws the purpose of which is to free the regime's insiders from the risk of potential prosecution for politico-administrative acts. The fourth casemate of this Maginot Line—to use a military metaphor—must head off any Senate action that might be aimed at overrunning this line of defense.

Up to just hours before the general meeting of the RN [National Renewal] this weekend there was no abatement of the fits of temper being thrown by its president, Sergio Onofre Jarpa.

"Even though the government 'as an institution' may not be concerning itself with the drawing up of the lists of candidates," he fumed, "there are government officials who are doing so. And the worst part of it," he added "is that the government is condoning it."

A few men of La Moneda have played key roles in this operation. It has been stated to HOY that maneuvering about in the shadows are: The minister secretary general of government, Gen Jorge Ballerino; the minister of interior, Carlos Caceres; and the foreign minister, Hernan Felipe Errazuriz. The minister of mining, Pablo Baraona, joined this threesome when, without leaving his cabinet post, he became the virtual manager of the rightist parliamentary ticket.

This explains the dismay that reigned during the RN's Tuesday 1 August policy session. At that point, Andres Allamand and Bernardo Matte were negotiating directly with Baraona, seeking accommodation on the ballots. The ensuing play clearly seemed to up the value of the UDI's [Independent Democrat Union] stock-in-trade.

Pablo Longueira, the UDI negotiator, was an assiduous visitor to the General Secretariat of the Presidency last week. The topic discussed was the same throughout: Electoral pacts.

The stakes for the UDI are clear: It aspires to become the electoral heir to Pinochetism. It does not expect to garner an overwhelming share of votes, but definitely enough votes to survive the 14 December voting. The Buchi option seemed a blessing. With Jarpa's candidacy, the outlook would have become dramatic. During those interminable discussions with RN, the trump card was always the same: According to the polls, the public figures best known to the voters of the right are the government ministers and the insiders closest to the UDI. "They happen to be the ones who appear most often on TV," says the RN.

The list is not long, but is sufficiently so: It includes: The minister of public works, Gen (Retired) Bruno Siebert; the minister of labor, Guillermo Arthur; and Pablo Baraona himself.

The former ministers on the campaign trail who intend to prove themselves box office attractions are: Generals (Retired) Luis Danus and Sergio Badiola. Completing the lineup is Miguel Angel Poduje, former minister of housing and urbanization, and of the general secretariat of government.

By the time the campaign begins, the distancing of La Moneda will have become a mere euphemism.

Jarpa himself has inveighed against the government officials who brought pressure to bear on the makeup of the parliamentary tickets. He has also criticized some mayors who have used local government funds to put their electoral machinery into operation. The case of Pedro Sabat, the Nunoa town alderman (who published a magazine with municipal funds) has been cited, as have the cases of some in the 5th Region. And they are not alone. Jarpa has also fired off shots at the president of the State Bank. Alvaro Bardon threatened to run a ticket of his own.

Despite the efforts deployed by La Moneda, the governing coalition fell apart on Friday morning. Only the UDI and RN succeeded in reaching an agreement. The PDR [Radical Democratic Party], the nationalist group headed by Patricio Phillips, and other minor groups, seemed out of the rightist electoral pact. The fate of Avanzada Nacional was even more dramatic: Allamand (RN) and Longueira (UDI) rejected any and every possibility of reaching an understanding with it. Blame for the break was laid by Admiral Merino. He praised Jarpa and lashed out against the "little yappers."

Whom Did You Shoot, General?

On Sunday 30th, via EL MERCURIO, Gen Fernando Matthei launched an "Exocet." "In strong tones and hard words," as reported by the interviewer, Raquel Correa, Matthei spoke "in behalf of the Fach [Chilean Air Force]." In sum, if the Concertacion opposition insists on some of the points in its Defense and Human Rights Program, a "very, very tense" situation will result.

In particular—he said—a derogation of the 1978 Amnesty Law is out of the question. What has occurred since that date—he said—can and must be prosecuted. "We can even agree that some officers may have to be imprisoned. Under the present law!" he stated.

But the aim of his warnings seems less clear-cut than the Concertacion initially assumed it to be. It took only a few clarifications by the opposition leaders for Matthei to perceive a "spirit of dialogue" and to lower his tone. Adm Jose Toribio Merino on Tuesday, and the head of Carabineros, Gen Rodolfo Stange on Wednesday, both did the same. The Junta issued an invitation to a "technical dialogue."

When the Chileans approved the 54 reforms to the Carta Fundamental [Fundamental Charter] in the plebiscite of 30 July, they granted a high constitutional standing to the Armed Forces. The relative juridical principles and guidelines must now be worked out. When the opposition negotiated the reform package with RN and Minister Caceres, the idea was that these principles and guidelines were to be debated "in full view of the nation" and prior to 14 December. It is known, however, that some sectors of La Moneda are prepared to respect only the time period. Soundings on this issue, taken among the jurists of the Ruling Junta by the General Secretariat of the Presidency, have heightened suspicions in the Diego Portales building. That Secretariat has moreover put out on the bargaining table the draft of a wide-ranging amnesty bill with many complex shadings. The aim is to protect the regime's civilian coworkers from potential prosecution in the future for politico-administrative acts.

It is felt that these were the considerations that led the military Junta to suddenly and surprisingly open a dialogue with the political parties. This idea persists—despite insistence by some that the soundings carried out by the Secretariat had General Pinochet's approval from the very start—and it appears to be confirmed by statements on the part of the defense minister, Adm Patricio Carvajal, who said: "The negotiations will take place after 14 December and with the winner in the voting."

'Painful, But...'

The military proposal was put out on the table with neither preliminary soundings nor subtleties, and under the pressure of time. The issue is a complex one for the Armed Forces institutions, and for the opposition as well.

The demands being made by the families of the victims of the repression have become a painful headache for the opposition strategists.

At stake are the imperatives of ethics and justice, and the need to ensure a stable political future. As Gen Matthei put it, the opposition's proposal in this respect must pay the price of "peace and reconciliation."

As of now, only the mechanism of the debate with the Armed Forces is clear. Rapprochement will be sought by way of a technical dialogue. Once again, the RN will function as an intermediary. Jarpa is known to have discussed this approach with the defense minister. And steps are already under way toward the forming of that technical team.

In his messages, Matthei seems to have conveyed a warning that the important thing is to avoid setting up easy targets for those in La Moneda who want to transform the military position into a red flag to be waved around military quarters.

Despite the obstacles, there is optimism.

There is certainty within both the Concertacion and the ranks of the RN that when General Pinochet relinquishes power on 11 March, the most he will retain will be the formal title of commander in chief, with little if any real power. And by then, a few senators who have been designated by La Moneda, or who have risen through the latter's mediation, will opt for looking after their own interests, and advancing their own future.

[Box p 10] The 'Handpicked' Senators

Article 45 of the Carta Fundamental stipulates that 20 percent of the Senate will consist of "designated" senators. This percentage will total nine senators. Once appointed, there can be no changes or replacements.

Who might accede to so controversial an honor?

A quick count produces the following insights:

Subparagraph a. of the cited article stipulates that "former presidents of the Republic" will be lifetime senators. Presently, only Gen Augusto Pinochet qualifies under this condition, and only in the event that he is not prosecuted by the future Congress for politico-administrative acts.

The 1980 Carta provides for two senators to be designated from among persons who have at any time been members of the Supreme Court for a period of at least 2 years. Both must be appointed by that body to fill the position of senators. These two requisites are met by Eduardo Videla, Abraham Meersohn, Jose Maria Eyzaguirre, Ricardo Martin, Ramiro Mendez Brana, and Enrique Urrutia Manzano.

The fourth designated senator must be elected by the Supreme Court from among the following former general comptrollers of the Republic: Enrique Silva Cimma, Hector Humeres, and Osvaldo Iturriaga. The latter is presently an incumbent.

Representing the Army, the following generals (retired) meet the requirements for designation by the CSN [National Security Council]: Sergio Castillo Aranguiz, Oscar Izurieta, Luis Miqueles Caridi, Washington Carrasco, and Jorge Forestier.

In the Navy the options are fewer. The CSN would have to choose from among Adm Jose Toribio Merino—if he relinquishes his post as commander in chief—Jacobo Neumann Etienne, and Raul Montero Medina (dismissed by the Board of Admirals in 1973). The Constitution provides that where the options are fewer than three, as they are in this case, a person can be designated who has held the next lower position—that is, a former chief of the general staff. This category offers several names. For example: Admirals Rivera Calderon, Poisson, Navajas, and Lopez Silva.

In the Fach, the options begin with Gen Fernando Matthei himself and include, in order of seniority: Retired Generals Aurelio Celedon (who held the post during Gonzalez Videla's Administration), Maximo Errazurtz, Carlos Guerraty Villalobos, Cesar Ruiz Danyau, and Gustavo Leigh.

In Carabineros, only four generals in chief (retired) meet the requirements: Ardiles Galdames, Vicente Huerta, Cesar Mendoza, and Rodolfo Stange.

The list of former presidents of state universities or of state-recognized universities is extensive, and the majority of them have held the post during the present Administration. The list includes: Edgardo Boeninger, Agustin Toro Davila, Alejandro Medina Lois, Cesar Ruiz Danyau, Agustin Rodriguez Pulgar, Jorge O'Ryan, Fernando Castillo Velasco, Jorge Swett, Matias Valenzuela, Raul Bertelson, Arturo Nino de Zepeda, Ismael Huerta, Guillermo Gonzalez, Heinrich Rochna, Guillermo Clericus, David Stichkins, Eugenio Gonzalez, William Thayer, Felix Martinez, Gaston Dupuis, Pedro Palacios, Jaime Ferrer, Gerardo Claps, Miguel Campos, Jaime Oviedo, Jorge Alarcon Johnson, and Raul Celis Cornejo.

From the foregoing lists will come the 20 percent of the Senate stipulated by the 1980 Carta.

Colombia

President Barco Issues New Security Decrees

PA1509013489 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2251 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Report by William Parra from Narino Palace—live]

[Text] Following a Council of Ministers meeting, Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas today announced new government measures. Decrees No 2099 and No 2100 declare Pacho Municipality, in Cundinamarca Department, and Puerto Boyaca, Boyaca Department, emergency zones and military operation zones. According to the decrees, special duties are assigned to the Tactical Unit commanders with jurisdiction in Pacho and Puerto Boyaca Municipalities.

The duties assigned to the area commanders include: maintaining public order in the areas under their jurisdiction; taking public order measures as required; coordinating the adoption of these measures with Cundinamarca and Boyaca governors and with the 13th Brigade commander and implementing these measures; adopting police measures to maintain public order, such as a ban on carrying weapons and selling or drinking alcohol; decreeing curfews; regulating meetings and parades in public areas; banning the circulation of persons or vehicles in certain areas under their jurisdiction; making use of the security and administrative personnel of the Administrative Department of Security—DAS—operating within the terrority of those municipalities.

Another function assigned today by the national government to Tactical Unit commanders of the abovementioned areas are the following: The military commander may suspend for up to 60 days as a precautionary measure any municipal employee, with the exception of the mayor, who refuses to cooperate on matters related to his work, something he is bound to do under the terms of Article 3 of this decree. This means that municipal employees must cooperate on these matters dealing with the ban on the carrying of weapons and the sale and consumption of alcohol.

In addition, the commander may order the appropriate authority to appoint officials to carry out certain duties and conduct the appropriate investigations based on the law. In special cases, the commander may ask the appointed authority to dismiss officials. For these same reasons, the commander may also ask the appointed authority to suspend or dismiss officials who work for the legal branch, government agencies, or the general attorney's office.

Another function assigned to the commander is that he may request that the governor dismiss or suspend the municipal mayor if he does not comply with the stipulations of Laws 78 of 1986 and 49 of 1987. In emergency or very serious situations, the commander is also authorized to dictate provisional orders or administrative dispositions. These dispositions are to be executed immediately by municipal officials if the commander believes they are necessary to maintain and reestablish public order. The military commander is obliged to report the measures he has taken to the corresponding authority within 48 hours. The measures will be formalized when they are confirmed by the corresponding authority.

The commander is also empowered to assume command of the General Penitentiary Directorate in the municipality. He is also to pursue convicts actively who have escaped in the area and, in general, carry out the arrests ordered by judges. He is also to request that judges and other officials give him nonconfidential information that he believes is necessary to carry out his duties. The commander can also request that courts order the investigation of government officials' conduct in the area and maintain surveillance of the legal proceedings carried out in the courts.

Article 3 of the decree gives special powers to the military commanders. The governors, the municipal mayors, and all civilian officials with authorities in these areas—Pacho and Puerto Boyaca—are obliged to give the military commander the assistance that he may require to carry out his duties to restore public order in that municipality.

Article 4 states that the Attorney General's Office and the President's Advisory Board on Defense, Protection, and Promotion of Human Rights [Consejeria Presidencial para la Defensa, Proteccion, y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos] will each appoint a delegate to ensure that the duties assigned to military commanders in Pacho and Puerto Boyaca are strictly carried out while at the same time complying with constitutional and legal provisions.

Article 5 states that Paragraph 2 of Article 130 of Decree-Law 1333 of 1986 is suspended in the territory of Pacho Municipality insofar as it pertains to the fulfillment of the duties of police chief by the mayor of that municipality, which by virtue of this decree are assigned to the military commander. All other regulations in conflict with this decree are also suspended.

This is the text of Decree 2099. It is similar to Decree 2100, which stipulates that, as of this moment, Pacho Municipality, in Cundinamarca Department, and Puerto Boyaca Municipality, in Boyaca Department, are declared emergency and military operation zones. It also assigns special functions to the military commander of the tactical unit who has jurisdiction in those municipalities.

Mercenaries' Presence Cause for Concern

Foreign Minister Summoned

PA1409162489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Report on statements by Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, at Congress on 13 September—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes was summoned to Congress for questioning. The Social Conservative bloc, several Liberals, and the Patriotic Union expressed surprise over some of the foreign minister's statements, particularly his assertion of knowing about the mercenary issue only through media reports.

Honorable Representatives Gilberto Vieira White and Hernan Motta Motta posed the questions. The subject was the presence in Colombia of Israeli, American, British, and West German mercenaries who, according to the representatives, worked as military instructors at the school for paid assassins waging the war in Colombia.

The first question asked of the foreign minister was how the paid assassins entered the country and why they were granted visas. The foreign minister responded as follows:

"In accordance with agreements signed with their respective countries and existing Colombian arrangements, British, German, and Israeli nationals do not require visas to enter the country.

"An agreement to this effect was signed with Great Britain on 26 May 1961; with regard to Germany the measure was adopted unilaterally and, according to its points, due to reasons of reciprocity, through Decree 1921 of 1957; and with Israel, through an agreement signed on 12 July 1976.

"U.S. nationals need only present tourism cards to enter Colombia. This arrangement has been in effect since 1957 through Decree 1444 issued that same year. In accordance with my previous statements, nationals from the states in question need only present their valid passports to immigration officials to enter Colombia."

Foreign Minister Londono explained that his ministry has sent messages regarding the subject to the Justice Ministry, Defense Ministry, Administrative Department of Security, DAS, and the Attorney General's office. He said that only two of these institutions have responded. Regarding whether or not the Colombian Government had issued letters of protest to the embassies of the countries in question, the foreign minister said:

"Immigration authorities must point out the length of time each of the individuals in question can remain in the country."

The foreign minister also had to deal with another issue at Congress—the issue of protest letters from the Colombian Foreign Ministry to the embassies.

"A letter dated 29 August was sent to the Israeli Embassy in Bogota. It reads: The Colombian Foreign Ministry addresses the Honorable Israeli Embassy in response to its message of 24 August requesting information regarding the case of quote, Israeli citizens involved in illegal paramilitary training operations in Colombia, unquote.

"The Foreign Ministry has addressed the Defense Ministry, Justice Ministry, DAS, and attorney general. The Colombian Government is astonished and amazed over these activities, and over reports that former Israeli officers are being carefully investigated in Israel for their involvement in these incidents. The Colombian Government is therefore requesting that all the information the Israeli Government may have regarding the former officers' involvement be remitted directly and as soon as possible to the aforementioned ministries and organizations. The Foreign Ministry takes advantage of this opportunity, etc.

"Likewise, as stated in the letter to the Israeli Embassy, letters were sent to the aforementioned organizations to gather information regarding the case. It was not until this morning that the Defense Ministry and attorney general sent any information. Yesterday—pardon me—on 8 September, the Defense Ministry answered the Foreign Ministry's letter, through note No 8792 dated 7 September 1989. The note pointed out that the Defense Ministry has ordered the military forces and National Police to carry out an investigation quote, of institutions whose reports on situations differ from those published in the various media sources that reported on the incident, unquote.

"The Attorney General's Office in note No 1756 dated 12 September 1989, which I received yesterday, includes a report naming nationals and foreigners allegedly involved in this affair."

The Defense Ministry's letter set the tone at Congress. After having said that he knew only what had been reported by the media, Londono read the Defense Ministry letter. The congressmen's reaction was one of surprise. Cauca Department Liberal (Guillermo Alberto Manzane Mosquera) wondered whether he had misheard and asked the foreign minister to reread the Defense Ministry letter, which had been addressed to the deputy foreign minister because the foreign minister was abroad when it was issued. Londono said he would be pleased to reread General Oscar Botero's letter.

"I can reread the note. It is note No 8792 MDM154, dated 7 September 1989. It is addressed to the deputy foreign minister, because I was abroad, and it states: I have received your note No 013712 dated 30 August 1989, in which you request information regarding the identity and nationality of foreign mercenaries in order to respond to a citation from the honorable Chamber

of Representatives. I must inform you that the Senate has also summoned the defense minister for the same purpose.

"Therefore, I ordered investigations by the military forces and National Police, which responded that they were unaware of any situations different from those published by the various media sources.

"This ministry reiterates the same, as I said, at a news conference on Friday, 1 September, which was widely broadcast locally and internationally."

This is the point that alarmed the congressmen. The Chamber of Representatives said it would not accept the foreign minister's explanations, that it would reject them because of the tone of the document you have just heard, which is a statement from the Defense Ministry signed by Defense Minister Oscar Botero.

The Colombian Government has issued additional notes of protest, and the foreign minister says that a third organization, the DAS, answered his letter on 8 September by sending him a cassette on the alleged paramilitary groups, which was immediately forwarded to the Israeli Embassy as requested as further proof of the events.

Break With Israel Urged

PA1409225989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2030 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 Sep (REUTER)—A parliamentarian offensive, which could result in a political scandal, has been unleashed against the Virgilio Barco administration for the presence U.S. advisers and mercenaries, who were used to train the death squads of the drug cartels.

While the chief of Colombian intelligence revealed that the British and Israeli mercenaries had entered the country legally, the leftist opposition in Parliament launched an offensive, which will continue on 20 September when it will be determined whether the government knew about their activities.

The opposition Social Conservative Party demanded an explanation for the arrival of U.S. advisers, who, paradoxically, were brought here to help fight those who trained the mercenaries.

The Parliament was the center stage of government criticism on 13 September and this is expected to continue on 20 September when the defense and government ministers will be answering the legislator's questions.

Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), said on 13 September that the instructors and former Israeli and British soldiers entered the country legally and had their visas and passports in order.

In statements published today by EL SIGLO, Maza Marquez said that "the problem is that the illegal activities followed the legal ones."

According to a DAS report, to which the media had access, 5 Israeli and 13 British mercenaries were detected in Colombia in 1988.

The case of the mercenaries, who trained paramilitary groups linked to drug traffickers, became public a few weeks ago and it caused a political stir in UK and Israel where the governments of each explained that the mercenaries had traveled to Colombia as "private individuals."

This has caused a controversy between political leaders, security agencies, and the Defense Ministry itself, which had to admit that it was unaware of the presence of the foreigners in the country.

A note sent by the Defense Ministry to the Foreign Ministry on 8 September, said that after investigations were held, the Defense Ministry was unaware of "situations other than those that have already been reported in the news media." Foreign Minister Julio Londono said.

During a hearing held on 13 September at the Chamber of Representatives, Londono said that only 6 days ago he was officially notified about the presence of the foreign mercenaries in the country.

Londono also said that there are reciprocal treaties with Israel, UK, and FRG, and therefore their citizens do not require visas to enter the country.

Leftist Legislator Hernan Motta Motta, from the Patriotic Union [UP], said the Virgilio Barco government should break diplomatic relations with Israel in view of the evidence of the presence of mercenaries from that country.

Motta accused Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo of maintaining direct contact with Israeli mercenary Ya'ir Klein through a security agency, in which he owns 40 percent of its shares. Motta said that the statement was made by the Israeli colonel himself when being questioned by his country's intelligence.

Meanwhile UP Senator Alberto Rojas Puyo showed videos to demonstrate the training capacity of the military experts.

He also gave a long explanation about the Israeli influence in various Latin American countries and said that especially in Colombia, the Israelis are responsible for the formation of ultrarightist organizations.

The defense and government ministers will speak before the Senate on 20 September to answer questions from UP legislators.

Defense Minister Responds

PA1509024589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0003 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo responded today to charges made 13 September at the Chamber of Representatives debate accusing him of being an associate of a security company, which allegedly

maintained contacts with foreign mercenaries, who trained paramilitary groups.

[Begin recording] [Patriotic Union Legislator Hernan Motta Motta] Defense Minister Oscar Botero owes an explanation to the country because Israeli citizen Ya'ir Klein told Radio Israel that he had maintained contacts with private Colombian security companies, including Seguridad Colombia, which Botero owns. [end recording]

Twenty-five percent of the shares of Sociedad Seguridad de Colombia Limitada [Colombia Security Society Association] is owned by Botero Restrepo Investment Company, which is managed by Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo. According to its business registry, this company provides protection services for buildings, vehicles, and individuals, and provides escort services as well. It also transports valuable items and performs other similar activities. However, according to Decree No 28-10 issued in 1984, active service members of the military forces cannot be associates or employees of private security companies.

Regarding his being both a minister and an associate of a security company, General Oscar Botero Restrepo said:

[Begin Botero recording] I will not explain this matter further because I believe the investigation was done at the proper time and no links or ties to me were found. [end recording]

As for links between Israeli mercenary Colonel Ya'ir Klein with the security company, the defense minister said:

[Begin Botero recording] At no time did we maintain contacts with Col Klein. Neither the Colombian military forces—unless it was strictly official business—nor I maintained contacts with Klein. [end recording]

Botero Restrepo added that the Senate debates regarding the presence of foreign mercenaries in Colombia will demonstrate whether there were indeed contacts between active military officers with the Klein group.

In his meeting with reporters, Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo also talked about the presence of U.S. troops in our country. Botero said that there has never been or will be a need for foreign troops in the country. The defense minister thereby denied the statements made by El Penon Mayor Jose Arcecio Botero, who said that U.S. soldiers would participate in an intense military operation in eastern Antioquia Department.

[Begin Botero recording] I can tell all Colombians, according to a communique that I have just issued, that foreign troops are not operating in this country. [end recording]

DAS, DEA Informant Appears

PA1509031489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0007 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Diego Biafara, Administrative Department of Security [DAS] and Drug Enforcement Agency informant, who appeared before a U.S. Senate committee on 13 September, revealed unknown links between the Israeli and British mercenaries, who have trained paramilitary groups in our country.

[Begin Biafara recording] That is Ya'ir Klein in front. He is the colonel wearing the dark blue shirt. The thin person behind him wearing the light blue shirt is Teddy, who was the translator. There were five Israeli instructors. I remember the names: (Sadaka), Amancia, Ya'ir, and Teddy. I cannot remember the name of the fifth one. There were 11 British instructors. We used to call that one David. This man was an expert in explosives. He instructed us on how to use explosives. [end recording]

These were statements made by Biafara to the U.S. Senate in which we learned of a clear link between the Israeli mercenaries, who were training paramilitary groups in the middle Magdalena region, and the British mercenaries who came to the country allegedly to assassinate Pablo Escobar.

Biafara knew both groups of mercenaries. According to his statements given to DAS last March, not only did Israeli mercenaries train assassins in middle Magdalena, there was also a group of 11 British mercenaries, who gave lessons to 50 students. Among the instructors there was (Peter McLise), the name of one of the leaders of the operation against Pablo Escobar, and David, whom Biafara clearly identified. He was (David Tomkins), the man in charge of the plot against Escobar. According to Biafara, most British instuctors had tatoos on their chests, arms, and shoulders, just as we can see on the video taped by the British men who prepared the operation against Escobar.

In conclusion, the mercenaries who were preparing to assassinate one of the Medellin Cartel leaders were the same ones who trained the assassins paid by the cartel itself.

Mayor: U.S. Troops Participate in Operation

PA1409194389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign soldiers, apparently from the United States, yesterday participated in a land and sea military operation in El Penon Municipality in the Department of Antioquia. Municipal Mayor Jesus Arcesio Botero confirmed this to our reporter over the telephone:

[Begin Recording] [Reporter] The operation started before 0600 yesterday. It lasted until 1400. It involved more than 250 Colombian policemen and an undetermined number of U.S. troops.

[Botero] I understand that there were many U.S. agents in the operation; I saw one myself. He understood Spanish fairly well, but he was an American. I could tell by the accent.

[Reporter] They used more than 10 helicopters. The police banned travel between El Penon and Guatape. The mayors of these two municipalities, two priests, and the managers of the Turantioquia and Cornare companies, who were going to a meeting, were affected by this restriction. [end recording]

Botero said that he does not know the results of the operation conducted by the police jointly with the foreign troops.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mayor, have you heard it said that Pablo Escobar and the Mexican are in El Penon area?

[Botero] I have never had the opportunity to meet these two men. We know nothing about that. Perhaps that was said by someone connected with drug trafficking. [end recording]

The mayor said that he is not opposed to operations against drug trafficking, but to the way in which the armed forces, according to him, disrespect the powers of municipal authorities.

The participation of U.S. troops in operations in El Penon contrasts with statements made by the White House spokesman, who said that U.S. advisers would not participate in operations with the Colombian Armed Forces.

Two former Social Conservative presidents, Misael Pastrana and Belisario Betancur, yesterday gave their opinion on U.S. military aid. They asked President Virgilio Barco to explain what commitment his government had made in exchange for foreign aid. That letter has been echoed by the Senate's Social Conservative bloc:

[Begin unidentified senator recording] Why is the Colombian president keeping silent and creating confusion and desperation in the country? We will, under no circumstances, allow trampling on our constitution with the excuse of defending Colombia. We will not agree to that. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to Colombia today told the national press that there are no U.S. advisers in our country. He said that only about 36 aviation mechanics and communications experts have arrived in Colombia. He added that U.S. aid is subject to no conditions.

Columnist Assesses Bush Antidrug Strategy

PA1409192489 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Sep 89 p 4

["Counterescape" column by Enrique Santos Calderon]

[Text] Almost exactly 3 years ago, the U.S. President declared "a total war" on drugs in his country. I was in the United States at the time when Reagan announced his much-publicized campaign. I remember very well the journalistic frenzy and the public impact caused by such a change in approach.

It was the first time that it was openly admitted that the problem started at home in view of the insatiable demand for drugs by millions of gringo users, a social phenomenon that began to nurture and still nurtures the dynamic international drug-trafficking economy.

In sum, it was the first time that Washington conceded that this war, which had been declared so many times, had to be fought, most of all, on the domestic front—in the country's streets and neighborhoods, instead of only in the jungles or cities of Colombia.

At that time—election time—polls indicated that Americans already felt that drug addiction was the main national problem. "Crack" youth gangs began to impose the law of guns and money in big city neighborhoods. The panic, insecurity, and crime inherent in the prosperous drug business became widespread.

What became of Reagan's great crusade? It wound up being all words and no action. It was merely an emotional election speech that never carried true support.

The real budget for antidrug campaigns decreased. The domestic drug-trafficking business, which was hardly touched, became stronger. It is a business with its own cartels and subcartels. It has its own gloomy leaders, financial intermediaries, and young armed members who have converted big city "ghettos" into small gringo-style Beiruts. It is the same Beirut term that U.S. journalists, who have swarmed Colombia, are using to refer to Medellin. It is the same Beirut they have in their own backyards in their cities' poor neighborhoods. This has occurred for a reason that is similar to ours—the savage but real opportunity that an illegal business offers to poor youths to gain access to that opulent but remote consumer-oriented society they see on television every day.

From the time Reagan issued his declaration of war 3 years ago and even before, when previous declarations of war were issued by every president since Johnson, the United States has lost all its domestic battles against drugs, and it has been unable to win back its streets.

Now, President Bush makes a new declaration of war, taking advantage, logically, of the fact that in the Colombia of the coca (the accomodating and treacherous Colombia of the past, but now the exemplary and heroic

Colombia), the cartels went completely out of control to the point of forcing the Colombian Government to declare its own war.

However, it must be conceded that this new Washington strategy is more serious and coherent than any previous one. It is more willing to admit that it has definitely the greatest share of responsibility in this battle.

There is a devastating aspect in Bush's message. It is that urgent and selfish warning that this war will not cost taxpayers a penny. Since when have wars—true wars—not affected the pockets of the people fighting them? What kind of an attitude is this? What kind of seriousness is there in this free crusade against the nation's biggest problem?

TIME magazine stated that the amount assigned to this war was "almost laughable." Just $7.8 billion was assigned and only 700 [figure as published] of that amount is new money. The $270 million that will be given to Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are less than 4 percent of the total amount allotted to this "third world war" against drug trafficking. It is a lot less than what the United States buries every year in the Salvadoran mini-war.

Perhaps, when—God forbid—somebody like Luis Carlos Galan or Guillermo Cano is murdered in their territory; or when their attorneys general, judges, or ministers are murdered; or when their industries and national newpapers are blown up, they will realize the cost of a war such as this one.

Meanwhile, we have to receive any aid we can, without becoming too optimistic about it. We should not give too much credit to figurative martial language and fully understand our present situation. This is not a war to solve the problem of U.S. drug consumption and it is not a war to end the inexorable law of supply and demand that maintains the drug traffickers.

This situation is a challenge to the international community, U.S. officials, British bankers, and Swiss financiers. Perhaps, when they see their youth poisoned and crime increasing in their cities, they will decide to put money to back their verbal solidarity. Perhaps then, they will decide to finance the substitution of the coca crops and stop undermining our countries' economies with their trade policies.

Meanwhile, we have to confront our problem with our own criteria and priorities. Our priority is to neutralize those who have tried to take over Colombian institutions with machineguns and dynamite. It is a problem of dignity and survival for the Colombian nation.

For the time being, this is the reason for our war. We have to stop those who killed Luis Carlos Galan. Doing away with the drug traffickers' economic reality has to be carried out by those who need it. We have to continue doing what we need to have done. We have to do so in the midst of bombs and threats and coping with psychological terror and real fear. We have to be honest and we also have to be realistic. In short, we have to struggle for a country that merits it and values that cannot succumb to money or terror.

2 Drug Traffickers Wanted by U.S. Arrested

PA1409212689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1958 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 September (DPA)—Colombian Secret Police sources reported that the alledged drug traffickers Bernardo Pelaez Roldan and Guillermo Bueno Delgado were arrested today. Apparently, the United States has requested that these men be extradited to respond to charges against them in that country.

It was reported that Pelaez Roldan was arrested in Bogota and is charged by a court in Detroit of conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the United States.

Bueno Delgado was arrested by the police on San Andres Island in the Caribbean and was immediately transferred to Bogota and handed over to judicial authorities.

Administrative Department of Security, DAS, spokesmen said that requests for extradition of the suspected drug lord have been received from Florida and California courts, where he has been charged with smuggling at least 5,000 kg of cocaine into the United States and laundering dollars obtained as a result of this illegal activity.

Last week, the Colombian Government extradited the alleged "financial head" of the Medellin Cartel to the United States. He is Eduardo Martinez Romero and has to answer charges in an Atlanta court of "laundering" more than $1.2 billion through a Panamanian bank.

The drug-trafficking mafias have threatened to murder 10 judges for each Colombian extradited to another country, and this threat has the whole country tense and anxious.

There are rumors circulating in several cities that narcocriminal organizations are preparing an operation called "Black September" that will be implemented next weekend by poisoning water supplies and attacking commercial centers and nightclubs.

Army on Confiscations at Drug Lord's Properties

PA1409173189 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] After properties of the Mexican [alias drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha] were raided and seized, troops of the 13th Brigade carefully searched the properties to find weapons. Here is a report by Irma Londono:

[Begin Londono recording] According to the 13th Brigade, the results of the operations carried out in Pacho Municipality in Cundinamarca Department to date are as follows: Weapons seized: 15 revolvers, 13 pistols, 13 shotguns, 7 submachineguns, 6 carbines, and 27 rifles.

Most of the rifles were purchased in the United States. The most popular is the M-16, which can cost approximately $400 or 165,000 pesos. In Colombia, this rifle might cost 800,000 pesos on the black market. The sale of Chinese AK-47 rifles is prohibited in the United States, but they can be bought for $1,200, about 480,000 Colombian pesos. Such a rifle can cost up to 1 million pesos in Colombia. They are much in demand because of their performance. Israeli-made rifles were also found. Most of them were found near a creek in Rionegro, Cundinamarca Department, after a clash with troops that resulted in one dead civilian and one captured.

The brigade also showed the communications equipment it seized, including radio telephones, telephones, batteries, and antennas. It also seized 55 vehicles, 2 tractors, and 6 motorcycles. [end recording]

Arrest Warrants Issued for Galan Murder Suspects

PA1509052689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0020 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report by Hernando Corral]

[Text] The third public judge issued arrest warrants for Norberto Hernandez Romero and Rafael Rivera Alarcon and charged them with participating in the murder of Liberal Party leader Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento. The same judge issued an arrest warrant for Jaime de Jesus Valencia Martinez and charged him with being the mastermind of the crime. These three persons have not been arrested and are being sought throughout the country.

Luis Alfredo Gonzalez Chacon, Pedro Zambrano Delgado, Norberto Murrillo Chalarca, Armando Bernal Acosta, Hector Manuel Zepeda Quintero, and Alberto Jubis Haszvumb were arrested a few days ago in Bogota and charged with being accomplices to the crime. The third civil judge also decided to release Luis Felipe Torres, the man who carried a poster and a hat at the murder scene and who was initially accused of having participated in the crime.

It has been reported that Jaime de Jesus Valencia Martinez, the alleged mastermind of the crime, offered 50 million pesos to police officials in an attempt to obtain the release of six persons who had been arrested in a luxury apartment in Bogota. Valencia is also charged with being the owner of the machinegun that was found in the apartment in which the six suspects were arrested.

The defense claims that there is a sworn statement by former minister Carlos Obando Velasco that certifies that he was with Jubis Hazvumb on the day Galan was killed. The lawyers also claim that Galan Sarmiento was killed by an Uzi submachinegun and that the one found at the apartment where the six suspects were arrested was an Ingram. Ballistic test results have not yet been revealed. The defense lawyers have appealed the court decision, and now the court will have to decide if the decision issued by the third public judge is to stand.

Government Tightens Control on Radio Frequencies

PA1409201989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 Sep (AFP)—The Colombian Communications Ministry has ordered tight control over private and commercial radio frequency assignments to prevent them from being used by drug traffickers.

The program, according to a spokesman for this ministry, consists of monitoring around the clock all leased radio frequencies or those assigned to individuals.

It was also reported that the government has recovered seven frequencies that had been assigned to people who turned out to have links with the drug-trafficking mafia, such as Carlos Lehder Rivas, Gilberto Molina, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, Julio Fabio Urdinola, Ivan Urdinola, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, and Victor Carranza.

Lehder Rivas, who admitted being a drug trafficker before his extradition to the United States in February 1987, is serving a life term in a Jacksonville, Florida jail. Molina was murdered in January 1989 at a farm in Sasaima, a summer village 40 km west of Bogota.

The government canceled a radio frequency for Rodriguez Orejuela, which he used to contact his properties.

Government, M-19 Postpone Peace Agreement

PA1409211989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1705 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 Sep (REUTER)— The Colombian Government and the 19 April Movement (M-19) have postponed signing a peace agreement but have not broken off the negotiations, an M-19 spokesman announced today.

Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser for peace affairs, announced that after the talks on 13 September in Santo Domingo (400 km southwest of Bogota), the agreement for the M-19 to demobilize and return to political life was postponed.

In statements by telephone to REUTER from Santo Domingo, Hipolito Blanco, a ranking M-19 spokesman, said "we hope to hold another meeting soon; the topics we must agree upon are complex and we must take time to analyze them."

Blanco pointed out that "yesterday's meeting was characterized by cordiality," but "the mechanisms to broaden democracy in the country and demobilization" are issues that must still be studied in-depth.

Blanco admitted that one of the subjects being considered is a pardon for M-19 members, including those who participated in the violent occupation of the Justice Palace in November 1985, when approximately 100 people were killed.

The M-19 is one of six active guerrilla groups in Colombia and the one that has made the greatest progress in peace talks with the government.

The group is nationalist in ideology. It has 1,000 armed men, is best known for its spectacular operations, and may well become the first Colombian guerrilla group to lay down their arms indefinitely.

The government and the M-19 signed a peace agreement on 17 March and opened talks in May with political and social sectors called "working tables."

The initial results of the "working tables"—which ended the first week of July—will be presented to Congress and the presidency in order for them to be transformed into constitutional reforms, laws, or decrees.

Some of the reforms deal with the representation of minority groups in Congress and mechanisms for the demobilization of the guerrillas.

Other guerrilla organizations will probably meet with the government this month to speed up the peacemaking process.

The only guerrilla group that has stayed away from the peace process is the Castroite National Liberation Army, which ceased bombing pipelines on 25 August, but has continued its guerrilla operations.

According to military estimates, the six insurgent groups in Colombia have a total of approximately 7,000 armed men.

ELN Said To Destroy Part of Oil Pipeline

PA1509051389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0305 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 14 Sep (EFE)—The pro-Castroite Army of National Liberation (ELN) of Colombia destroyed a section of the Teca-Vasconia oil pipeline in the central part of the country last night, the Colombian Oil Enterprise (ECOPETROL) officially announced today.

The new terrorist action was staged in Puerto Boyaca where the oil pipeline was destroyed and much ELN propaganda was strewn.

ECOPETROL stated that the attack occurred "despite the subversive group's announcement that it will suspend this type of action to facilitate the public debate of oil policy."

This oil pipeline connects Vasconia in the northern part of the country with the line that goes to Barrancabermeja in central Colombia where ECOPETROL has its main refinery.

The ELN, a guerrilla group that has been waging an armed struggle for 25 years and is led by former Spanish Priest Manuel Perez, claims that the sabotage against the hydrocarbons and mining industries is a way of preventing international companies from sacking the country's natural resources.

Since January 1988, when it began its attacks on oil pipelines, the ELN has carried out more than 130 attacks against the Teca-Vasconia pipeline, the Pacific pipeline, and the country's main oil artery, the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline.

Army Arrests 28 ELN Members Linked to Attacks

PA1509054789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report issued by Brigadier General Jose Gregorio Torres, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade of Medellin—date and place not given]

[Text] The 4th Infantry Brigade Command informs all Colombian citizens that during the implementation of operations of control and neutralization of criminal activities carried out in Medellin City, we have arrested a group of criminals belonging to the self-styled Army of National Liberation [ELN] who along with drug traffickers have been carrying out terrorist actions in the Aburra Valley. Those who were arrested have been remanded to the custody of the appropriate judges.

The authorities confiscated weapons, ammunition, explosives, radios, and key documents for military intelligence.

Signed: Brigadier General Jose Gregorio Torres, 4th Infantry Brigade Commander

Gunmen Kill 3 at Church Service in Pereira

PA1409134189 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Three people were killed and four were seriously wounded when an armed group opened fire on a church congregation a little before midnight. The massacre was carried out by heavily armed individuals who arrived in El Brillante, in the jurisdiction of Pereira. Approximately 50 people of the evangelical Pentecostal Church were at a religious service when the gunmen indiscriminately opened fire, killing the following people: Luis Evelio Gutierrez, 50; Arnoldo Naranjo, 52, a national police pensioner; and an unidentified elderly man. The following were wounded: Jose Avelardo Ramirez, 37; Henry Castaneda, 18; Luis Carlos Enao, 18; and Daniel Sanchez, 30. They were hospitalized at Pereira's San George University Clinic.

Ecuador

2 Suspected Colombian Drug Traffickers Deported

PA1409224789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2015 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Quito, 14 Sep (REUTER)—Ecuador today deported two Colombians suspected of having drug-trafficking links and who yesterday violated Ecuadoran airspace aboard a small aircraft, a high-ranking government official announced.

"The action was taken in support of the total war declared by the Colombian Government against drug trafficking," acting Government Minister Jose Felix Lopez stated at a news conference.

He added that military authorities yesterday forced a Cessna-210 carrying four occupants to land. The aircraft entered Ecuadoran airspace over the country's eastern jungle region without authorization. The authorities seized $360,000 dollars found in the aircraft.

"Ecuador is on a state of alert to arrest foreign elements linked with drug trafficking who enter the country," the official explained.

He said that drugs were not seized in the operation. The Colombians were identified as Juan Hernando Gonzalez and German Helandia, who said they were flying from Cali to Puerto Asis and Leticia in Colombia's southeastern jungle region. Ecuador and Colombia share a 70-km-long border, most of which is not controlled, and common maritime areas on the Pacific Ocean.

Paraguay

Rodriguez To Attend UN Session, 'Minisummit'

PY1409185589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 11

[Text] It was confirmed yesterday that President Andres Rodriguez will go to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly, where he is scheduled to deliver a speech on 26 September. During his stay in New York, President Rodriguez will also attend a minisummit with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, Brazilian President Jose Sarney, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Rodriguez is scheduled to depart for New York from Silvio Pettirossi Airport on 24 September.

In New York Rodriguez will also attend a luncheon for officials attending the UN Assembly, which this year will gather several heads of state, foreign ministers, delegations, and observers from all over the world.

According to New York datelined report, General Rodriguez will attend the UN General Assembly session at the invitation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with whom he will hold a meeting.

President Rodriguez will speak to the UN Assembly at approximately 2000 GMT on 26 September, and hold meetings with representatives from the financial sector and the Bush administration.

Rodriguez will also attend a reception that U.S. businessman David Rockefeller will hold in his honor. Rodriguez is scheduled to return to Paraguay on 27 September.

Former Social Security Institute Head Arrested

PY1409183189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 37

[Excerpt] General Hugo Dejesus Araujo, former president of the Social Security Institute Adminstration Council, is being held at the 1st Cavalry Division. This information has been provided to the criminal court that will hear Araujo's case. Araujo has been charged with crimes against the public administration. [passage omitted]

New MOPOCO Coordinator General Elected

PY1309220289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Sep 89 p 6

[Summary] Deputy Sandino Gill Oporto was unanimously elected coordinator general of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] at an 11 September session. He replaces Senator Eduardo San Martin who has passed away recently. Rodolfo Sannemann was elected MOPOCO permanent secretary.

Central Bank Reports Inflation Rate Increase

PY1409205889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 11

[Excerpt] The Paraguayan Central Bank reported yesterday that the January-August inflation rate totals 32.5 percent. It adds that since the most recent salary increase in June the inflation stands at 13.6 percent.

According to official statistics, during the January-August period foodstuffs increased by 18.3 percent (of which 15.1 percent occurred after the salary increase); housing costs increased 30.3 percent (16.9 percent of which occurred after the establishment of 164,540 guaranies as the new minimum salary); clothing increased by 17.2 percent (7 percent of which occurred in the last 3 months); and "miscellaneous" increased by 27.9 percent (of which 11.4 percent occured in the last 3 months). [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Officials Comment on 'Narcodollar Laundering'

PY1509031689 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Interior Ministry sources have reported that it is not up to the ministry to investigate the laundering of narcodollars. Interior Ministry Deputy Secretary Washington Baliero said that monetary sector officials should conduct the investigation.

Central Bank Chairman Ricardo Pascale has praised the neat and open way in which the financial sector operates, and the fact that the sector immediately investigates any type of unusual activity.

Pascale denied rumors that the courts have consulted the Central Bank on cases of narcodollar laundering.

Pascale said that he has been in constant contact with the central banks of the industrialized countries to obtain information on the topic.

[Begin recording] [Pascale] I believe that such laundering operations have been conducted in several highly developed countries and only in a few developing countries such as Uruguay.

[Reporter] Do the Uruguayan financial institutions have strict control over their operations to prevent this type of laundering?

[Pascale] Yes, there is strict control; we are very impressed by the control the banks have over operations in general, and with their investigation of unusual operations, unknown clients, and operations involving abnormally high amounts of money. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Haven't U.S. officials requested any information from the Central Bank during their investigations?

[Pascale] No, the central banks are in constant contact. We have dealt with the topic many times, because this issue is of concern to the United States, the European countries, all countries in general—both the highly developed ones and the developing ones. [end recording]

Communique With Bank Committee Released

PY1409220989 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 8 Sep 89 p 6

[Text] Uruguayan officials and the committee of creditor banks, which is presided over by Citibank, have released a joint communique in Washington, after what everyone called "difficult" negotiations. The communique states that the Uruguayan foreign debt will be renegotiated at the end of September.

Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino and Central Bank Chairman Ricardo Pascale are now in the United States negotiating better conditions for the payment of the foreign debt. This follows an agreement with the World Bank for a medium-term readjustment of the economy.

After meeting with the Uruguayan officials, Citibank released a communique stating: "Uruguay has reported to the (creditor banks') committee on the economic program it has been preparing with the support of multilateral institutions, and it has submitted to the banks its proposal for a long-lasting solution to the problem."

Later on, the banks and the Uruguayan officials released a joint communique stating: "Uruguayan officials and the committee of creditor banks have agreed to meet again on 27 September to discuss the Uruguayan debt to the commercial banks within the framework of the Brady plan."

That plan is designed to reduce the interest on the debtor countries' debt and on new loans. This reduction is linked to adjustment programs and structural reorganization.

Senator Lacalle [National Party presidential candidate] said that progress in the negotiations was small because of [Colorado Party presidential candidate] Jorge Batlle's offer to sell gold to pay the Uruguayan debt. Lacalle added that this offer increased the commercial banks' hope of collecting their money.

Regarding the possibility of selling gold to pay the debt, Minster Zerbino said: "I hesitate to comment on the topic. I have been asked direct questions on the matter, but I have never said anything about the topic. We have never openly discussed it."

Regarding the Lacalle-Batlle dispute, Zerbino pointed out: "It is not prudent to interfere in the discussion of two presidential candidates. I will not make any comments on it."

Aug Inflation Rate Amounts to 4.43 Percent

PY1409212489 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 7 Sep 89 p 9

[Summary] According to the Bureau of Statistics and Census, the August inflation rate stands at 4.43 percent, while the overall inflation rate for the past 12 months is 81.03 percent.

Venezuela

President Perez Speech on New Economic Laws

PA1509042689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0008 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez during law signing ceremony; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Venezuelan men and women:

Today a fundamental action under the democratic system is taking place, during which the president of the

Republic sanctions a set of laws according to the Constitution. This is the culmination of a process confirming the people's sovereign will, expressed through the legislative activities of Congress.

I did not want this to be an irrelevant action during which the National Executive Branch would sign and promulgate laws which are fundamental to the country. This shows once more that the various branches of government have but one destiny and commitment, which is to collaborate most closely to realize the state's goals.

Collaboration is not a sign of unanimity, complicity, or lack of discrepancies. It is, first and foremost, the recognition that beyond all differences which may exist in the body of a pluralistic entity like Congress and those that may exist between Congress and the Executive Branch, there are fundamental objectives and positions which become unified in order to achieve specific strategic goals.

We must not fail to recognize, however, that the nation's crisis is institutional in nature. Through a process of premature attrition, the institutions have been losing vigor as key parts of the state. Many times, it would seem that power does not lie where the Constitution and the laws provide that it should, because of a large number of factors that impact on them. Democracy's typical institutions seem to be losing validity and respectability in the people's collective conscience. This problem concerns the Congress; the Judicial Branch; the national government; the decentralized administration [not further identified]; the managerial organizations; the trade unions, and labor organizations; and, of course, the political parties and the national community as a whole.

This criticism, which also involves self-criticism, emphasizes the need to strengthen our institutions. The solidity of the state and the respectability of its leaders are the immediate objectives of Venezuela's society. They are fully attainable and absolutely indispensable in renovating and reforming democracy. Power must be exercised in every specific sphere by the institutions which the Constitution and the laws dictate. It cannot be delegated, reduced, transferred, or discarded through actions from pressure factors.

I wanted to make this ceremony part of the idea of this institutional and ethical recovery of the fundamental values of democracy. The Executive Branch has promoted some of the laws I am promulgating today, but it also disagreed substantially with the opinion that prevailed in Congress. We could have engaged in a legal controversy but chose, instead, to make this an educational effort and demonstrate that agreement and collaboration are possible even amid discrepancies.

I have set out not only to be the head of the Executive Branch but to show daily that I also have the constitutional role of chief of state. In this capacity, it is my duty to guarantee a coherent functioning of our institutions in order to secure the objectives of the state—of a state that has no party and cannot respond to factional interests, but to the legitimate interests indicated by the collective will of the nation.

Because of these convictions, I do not feel that I am asking to much if I ask all of the country's sectors to keep controversies—which are so much a part of democracy—from becoming a cause for demoralization, or scandal, which is so traditional under authoritarian regimes and which are in some way inherited by democracies that have a primitive conception of politics.

The laws I am promulgating today are highly significant and are most certainly a prologue to the modernization of our laws and development of the de jure state. The Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Executive Branch, the Attorney General's Office, and most other factors interested in the modernizing process of our country are participating in this initiative.

Venezuela is treading new paths, and in this context it is important that we apply new rules in the operation of our economy. This way we will be able to achieve solid and genuine development in a direct and reasonable correlation with the rest of the world.

The new situation compels us to give greater flow to the currents of world trade. Some fear that the decision to modernize will drive industry into sudden bankruptcy or a slow death. I want to remind those making remarks of naive uncertainty that, unfortunately, in the closed and regulated economic world we lived in for so many years, industry did not benefit at all. Between 1980 and 1987, industrial employment barely generated 40,000 new jobs, our industrial pace always grew at a moderate pace with exemptions and state subsidies. With the new trade policy that begins today, we want to give Venezuelan industry the opportunity to grow and conquer new territories, which hitherto were simply unattainable.

We chose to undertake decisive action to effectively reinforce industry and commerce. That cannot be done any other way than by guaranteeing our products' competitiveness in other areas. The trade policy that has been adopted is aimed at improving our economy's competitiveness and promoting growth of exports; this way the problem of having a single export item will solved and we will favorably resolve our balance of payments problem. This daring program of industrial modernization calls for the encouragement and support of extraordinary resources that will enable us to make the transition without trauma toward a new and more efficient industrial and trade situation in Venezuela.

With this objective in mind, the National Executive Branch proposed and the Congress approved a law of credit and support for the trade policy just enacted with funds supplied by the World Bank, which opened again to the country owing to the serious economic policy we had adopted. However, this legislation is not enough to resolve the problem. The profound transformation of Venezuela's economy requires all Venezuelans, especially businessmen and workers, to fully assume the historic change, not only

in the creative terms the new situation affords us, but in terms of the sacrifices we all are obligated to make. Businessmen must learn to grasp the opportunities that will enable them to generate new sources of wealth, high-paying jobs, and a new professional passion for the world of production. They will have to make an extraordinary effort to strengthen their companies and update their production patterns and management. Already, many businessmen have been expanding their horizons and are beginning to see the advantages of having foreign markets. By doing so, they can offer Venezuelan consumers better products at lower prices.

Workers will have to face various challenges, more difficult challenges we may say, because the issue is to find new means of negotiation during difficult times. Defending jobs is important. However, it is equally important to contribute to efficiency and industrial productivity. This is the only way to ensure more and better jobs in the short- and medium-range, even if this means we have to face a critical initial period such as the one we are currently enduring.

Meanwhile, the government should implement a social policy that ensures the well-being of workers and reaffirms the objectives of its economic policy: the well-being of all Venezuelans. To compensate for the effects mentioned above, I have decreed a law on public credits to finance the employment and social investments plan. We have included in this law the resources that will permit the creation of a social security network for the labor sector. I am convinced that it would be unjust to start an industrial renovation process without offering feasible alternatives to Venezuelan workers. The national Constitution guarantees Venezuelans the right to work. If at the present time the state cannot generate new jobs as it did in the past, then we must create a new social environment that lessens the immediate impact of the new economic path .

My government has wanted, even amidst this crisis we are enduring, to assume the responsibility for testing systems for unemployment insurance which will prevent thousands of Venezuelans from suddenly being left without any income. This will also permit workers to redirect their activities, to be retrained, and to enjoy the right to a better life. As part of the objectives of our policy we are in the process of reorganizing the INCE [National Institute of Cooperative Education] to ensure suitable training for workers on new jobs. We are also reorganizing the social security sector to protect the health and welfare of workers. The main goal of the employment plan is to generate jobs and income for those sectors of the population which, because they are less qualified, are more vulnerable to the possible reductions in the labor force and could therefore be temporarily affected. Meanwhile, the INCE will update and improve its capabilities.

This is how the plan was created, seeking short-term projects that would generate many jobs and permit workers to be trained. This is basically for the local, non-qualified labor force. This is one of the fundamental points to be addressed during the first 2 years of my term.

Taking this premise into account, the most appropriate projects that should be implemented are those projects that require a high percentage of manpower and little foreign exchange. Therefore, the employment plan and social investment plan for 1989-1990 puts emphasis on projects for social infrastructure. This includes the consolidation and improvement of neighborhoods; credits for housing; rural and urban housing for the poor; service units; repairs to medical, social services, and educational installations, and to centers assisting minors and the penitentiary system. This also includes improving infrastructure to provide public services, potable water and sewage systems in small towns, environmental work, road systems in neighborhoods, and the infrastructure to support production activities, land drainage, irrigation systems, wholesale markets and markets in low-income sectors, agricultural systems, and reforestation.

We must stress the regional coverage of the employment and social investment plan which—because it is adjusted to the reorganization plan and to the plan to fight poverty—distributes investments in the regions most affected by the critical conditions in which there is a greater stagnation. The plan is basically a plan for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure which will have a great multiplier effect in these sectors. The main and immediate impact of this plan would be on small- and medium-sized enterprises in the construction sector. We will also make efforts to improve the living conditions of the population and the services in general including the hospitals and educational centers.

It is important to point out that this new investment plan will generate nearly 126,000 jobs during the construction period and 70,000 families and over 380,000 countrymen will benefit. Once the critical gap of the adjustment phase is overcome, the national economy will absorb these workers in permanent jobs with better pay.

This plan will allow us to perform a very important task during these difficult times in Venezuela. Of course, we are not talking about a cure-all remedy. It was not conceived or proposed that way in the beginning. We are simply talking about entering an intermediate stage within the industrial development process experienced in the country. Therefore, we are not offering a solution, we are offering part of a program to better promote in an orderly manner the hard work of the Venezuelan people.

With these intentions in mind, beginning in October, 2 million children will benefit. This is practically half of the student population from kindergarten to 6th grade. They will receive 860 million bolivars per month for the food scholarship program. They will also receive 2.5 billion bolivars for uniforms and school supplies. This program includes all rural schools and the large majority of the schools in urban areas, and all special education schools.

We have also enacted a law on the housing policy. It was conceived as the expression of an agreement that affirms

the historic responsibility of the parties and the country's business and labor groups to lay the groundwork for a policy, which in the medium- and long-run can ensure the continuity and coherence of the actions conducted by the groups that interact in the search for effective solutions to the housing needs of Venezuelan families. The program will cover a period of 15 years by progressively treating groups of families of various incomes until we reach the goal of 3 million beneficiaries by the year 2000.

The ambitious goal will be the result of a widely coordinated plan within the framework of a national development strategy. The definition of the country's housing policy, the drafting of the plans, as well as the proper use and control of the resources obtained through these means, will be the responsibility of the national Housing Council and the Vigilance Board [junta de vigilancia] created for this purpose. They will be composed of members of the public sector, representatives of savings account holders, and members of the financial and construction sector.

To finance the programs, we will have a fund, which will receive contributions from the public and private sectors and other sources such as the savings banks. Thus, I believe it is necessary to emphasize the importance of allocating an amount that is not less than 5 percent of the national budget for the implementation of housing programs by public sector organizations. This is part of the Executive Branch's commitment to ensure the continuity of the program that is protected by law, which covers a wide range of housing solutions aimed at dealing with the housing shortage in the country. Various solutions will be offered such as the allocation of land tracts with basic services; the granting of basic housing units, which can later be enlarged; credit assistance with good interest and installment conditions; home remodelling; the granting of subsidies for housing leases; and the providing of legal and technical assistance.

I must also mention the positive effects in the country's economic reactivation plans as a result of the large investments in housing projects that this law will encourage.

The generation of a steady demand of national products will encourage the reactivation of our national industries, which will count with the necessary conditions to increase the levels of productivity and profitability. Consequently, the multiplying effect of investments will directly and indirectly result in an increase in the employment levels and will substantially improve the population's income and living standard.

I am fully convinced that the responsible, firm, and joint participation of the state, private sector, and population in general in the implementation of this law—which marks a milestone in the focusing on and conduction of the country's housing policy—will produce broad and fruitful results. This law will be a fundamental instrument for the government's social policy.

We have also promulgated the law to protect mortgage debtors [Ley de Proteccion al Deudor Hipotecario] which will be a valuable instrument in countering the high interest rates on mortage loans resulting from the implementation of the adjustment measures in the macroeconomic plan implemented by my government. I must note that this law is based on Decree No 123, which has a high social connotation and includes subsidizing the interest on loans to acquire houses that fall in the category of social interest, as well as the establishment of a preferential interest rate.

The approval of the law for the protection of mortgage debts institutionalizes housing subsidies for those acquiring a main house and broadens its coverage.

We disagreed with some aspects of this law, because we thought that the government had already responded to the 170,000 mortage debtors through a broad subsidy reflected in the 15 percent interest rates. Regretfully, by extending the protection to the remaining 14,000 debtors, Congress made the lowest income groups among all mortgage debtors finance the smaller and more powerful group of mortage debtors. This increased to 18- and 19.5-percent the 15-percent interest rate that the national government had already agreed to for the vast majority of debtors.

I have also sanctioned the law amending the Basic Electoral Code [Ley de Reforma de la Ley Organica del Sufragio]. I want to be clear and frank. I had hoped for profound amendments to the electoral law establishing a single nomination system in the election of councilmen. I maintain that our people want to get rid of a mechanism that may have worked in the past at a time when we were beginning to consolidate our democracy, but which today is seen as an abusive system, with an excessive partisanship system that offers no opportunities for citizens to really elect their representatives. I promoted this concept as far as I could along with my party, the Democratic Action Party. However, political circumstances only made it possible to reach an agreement around the open list system [not further identified].

I will not deny that this law represents an advance over what we have today. However, it does not meet the demands and expectations of the citizens, of the people in each community, and why not say it, it falls short of the commitments that all parties and candidates acquired in the electoral process.

Given the conditions under which the debates and the parliamentary agreements took place, I feel that we have opened the possibility of future electoral amendments. I am positive that based on the experience we will get through this and the attitude of self-criticism that should characterize leadership, and new and fundamental amendments will be introduced in the future. That is how the process must be seen. State reforms are necessary measures in Venezuelan society in the modernization process.

The ones who do not understand why this process is necessary will remain trapped in the net of the past and will lose step with a rising country and leadership who are calling for the structural modernization of government branches, parties, and administration of all society, and which will now begin one of the most exciting experiences of the democratic process with the election of governors and mayors. This paves the way for Venezuela's political, economic, financial, and administrative decentralization, at a time when we have decided to deal with endemic corruption.

I do not want to conclude this speech without reflecting on a matter of such national and international importance as the foreign debt. The renegotiation of the foreign debt constitutes a major problem for Venezuela as it does not allow us to eschew our responsibilities. At stake is the sovereignty of our economic decisions and the possibilities for overcoming the unprecedented crisis we are experiencing. I want to categorically state that we represent with dignity and firmness the aspirations of all Venezuelans. Each opinion we submit and each position we propose responds to the country's feelings. That is why they must be examined calmly lest the confusion, which the other side is trying to create, places our negotiators at a disadvantage whenever we have to assess possibilities, explore alternatives, and propose options.

If one issue calls for reflection and requires the unity of Venezuelans, this is it. At stake is not the merit of a government, but the sacrifice of a whole generation that must meet its commitments under conditions that may also restore economic growth and the collective well-being. I appeal to the good faith of all Venezuelans, regardless of social, economic, or political status, to exclude from low-level disputes and political insidiousness the discussion of a process that binds all Venezuelans. Our patriotism and respectability is the same as anyone else's faced with the same situation.

This process is and has been also slow for all debtor countries. Yet it will be positive because it has been accompanied by bids to obtain new foreign resources, which have been entering and will continue to enter to alleviate the pressure on our international reserves and to promote a stable and balanced economic development. The negotiations on the debt presuppose working on several fronts. Congress understands this and has approved resources for the program of operations to reduce the entire public debt. This process will be carried out under World Bank auspices. The congressional finance commissions will be informed of all transactions and will also be informed of the decision to be adopted regarding the current overall negotiations on Venezuela's entire public and private debt. We will also inform political parties and business and labor representatives on a timely and regular basis.

It is very healthy to inform the country about these issues. However, constant infighting among ourselves does not make sense and is counterproductive, as it has the opposite effect of weakening our position at negotiating rounds, when there is an clear interest in disconcerting us to weaken our negotiating capability.

Venezuelan men and women, I repeat often that Venezuelans have the bad habit of stressing the negative when referring to our country's situation. The constant pessimism is exploited by people who lack faith in Venezuela or who for unspeakable purposes want to create uncertainty and discouragement. Or else this could be the misguided tactic of foes with or without parties who, bereft of arguments or proposals to submit in the face of the crisis, shield themselves behind this dishonest activity.

The truth is that we Venezuelans have no reason to be pessimistic. We are living a profound, structural crisis that extends beyond the grave economic crisis, which deeply affects all Venezuelan sectors. I have vowed to speak to the people frankly, without euphemisms or quibbles, calling things as they are. We are not hiding anything. When we note the problems and difficulties, we also say that we will march forward. We are moving forward. We have the fundamental resources that guarantee total success. It only depends on us, on the courage and determination to face and resolve the problems, not only the economic problems, for which we have abundant material and human resources, but also the social and political problems.

Venezuela has resources for its development. Venezuela has men and women to lead the country, to bring it out of the moral prostration that affects us all. Venezuela has the will to carry out social justice. Venezuela has in its men and women imagination, creativeness, the will to be, and courage to triumph.

Our democracy is not as bad as we think it is. It is defective and we have mistreated it, but we have committed ourselves to reflect on it and to amend flaws and omissions. Not everything is vain, scandalous or demagoguery. It is inevitable that one or the other crops up amid the confusion created by the crisis. However, a national awareness is emerging from this crisis.

If corruption has generated a climate of distrust that undermines political leadership, it should only move us to the unshirkable duty of taking a stand to face the cases that exist, obvious and confirmed, to demonstrate that there are no grounds for the general mistrust and belief that politicians abet one another. Our obligation is to rescue credibility and demonstrate that Venezuelan democracy is based on solid moral bases. At the same time let us take care that sensationalism and abuse, charges and false allegations do not deter us from the noble and firm purposes of rescuing our national ethics.

I conclude by recognizing that Venezuela is experiencing a period of severe difficulties, but at the same time with the certainty that we have reasons to be optimistic. All countries have achieved their great historic victories as a result of difficulties and crises. No society has progressed without

having to choose between this or that path or without facing the risks that are implied by decisionmaking.

We are now doing what we should. We are assuming the responsibility for leading Venezuela at this complex crossroads of its history, with the certainty that only by assuming this responsibility can we take the country on the path of modernization, progress, and welfare.

We know that the task is not easy. But I am certain of the firm will of my people and certain that if we all march together, the future will be ours. Let's get to work, Venezuelans. [applause]